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SUMMARY

Overview

Based on police data, crime in Ontario increased in 1986 for the first time since 1981. This resulted in workload increases at most court levels and subsequent increases in the inventory of cases pending.

Non-criminal matters have been decreasing at the Provincial Court level but increasing in most of the higher courts.

The following summarizes this in more detail.

CRIMINAL MATTERS

Crime reported to police in Ontario quadrupled between 1962 and 1981, reaching almost 890,000 Criminal Code and drug offences. The number subsequently decreased to the 835,000 level by 1985, but increased in 1986. This increase occurred for violent, property, and other non-traffic Criminal Code offences. The other offence categories of provincial statutes and municipal bylaws increased as well.

The number of charges received and disposed in the Provincial Courts (Criminal Division) increased in 1986/87 following several years of decreases. In this court, the number increased until the early 1980's, but thereafter decreased until 1985/86. The number increased last year and the increase was most notable for provincial statute and municipal bylaw charges. The number was also notable in several districts. Coincident with this increase, the number of Criminal Code and drug charges pending increased overall and in some districts, notably, Peel, Ottawa-Carleton, Hamilton-Wentworth, Essex and some other districts.

In the Youth Courts, Criminal and Family Divisions, the number of persons charged and the number of cases disposed increased for the third consecutive year. The increase occurred for boys and girls in all age categories.

In the District Courts, the number of cases disposed over the last ten years has for the most part kept pace with the number of cases added. However, in spite of relatively high case inventories in Metropolitan Toronto, Peel, Essex and some other districts (Pages 29 to 35), the pending rates for jury actions have been slowly decreasing.

In the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, the number of cases disposed has followed the overall trend in offences. However, of note is, the number of charges disposed has not kept up with the number of charges received. This has resulted in a doubling of the case inventory between 1983/84 and 1986/87.

NON-CRIMINAL MATTERS

In the Provincial Court (Family Division), the number of case dispositions has been showing recent decreases. This has been mainly the result of the enactment of the Young Offenders Act and the establishment of the Youth Courts. There has also been an increase in use of the criminal courts in domestic assault matters and an increase in the use of garnishments in family law matters.

In the Supreme and District Courts, jury dispositions have been increasing, while non-jury dispositions have been decreasing. These divergent trends have affected the pending rates in different ways. In the District Courts, the pending rates have been increasing for jury actions, but decreasing for non-jury actions. In the Supreme Court, the pending rates have been increasing for both jury and non-jury actions.

In the Supreme and District Courts divorce actions decreased last year while motor vehicle accident, construction lien and other actions increased. This was true for both jury and non-jury actions.

OUTLOOK

In recent years, the population growth in the larger urban areas coincident with a long term crime increase, have been dominant factors affecting the workload of the courts. Over the next decade, these are expected to continue to dominate. The result will be short term workload fluctuations amid an overall long term increase averaging 2% per year. Many districts will continue to out-pace that rate of growth.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to update for Ministry management the latest available court statistics in relationship to the long term trends and the data from the other justice ministries. The report displays trends at the various court levels, and provides an analysis of some individual court locations. It further explores the data interrelationships among the justice-related ministries. The data are provided mainly in graphical format to enable the reader to quickly note changes which have developed.

For the sake of consistency, the trends displayed are for the most part five years, 1982/83 to 1986/87 or ten years, 1977/78 to 1986/87.

The information comes mainly from the Statistical Services Unit of the Computer and Telecommunications Services Branch of the Ministry of the Attorney General. Other information comes from: the Ontario police forces through the Canadian Centre For Justice Statistics, and the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services. All the data are stored on computer diskettes and detailed information is available on request from Research Services, Ministry of the Attorney General.

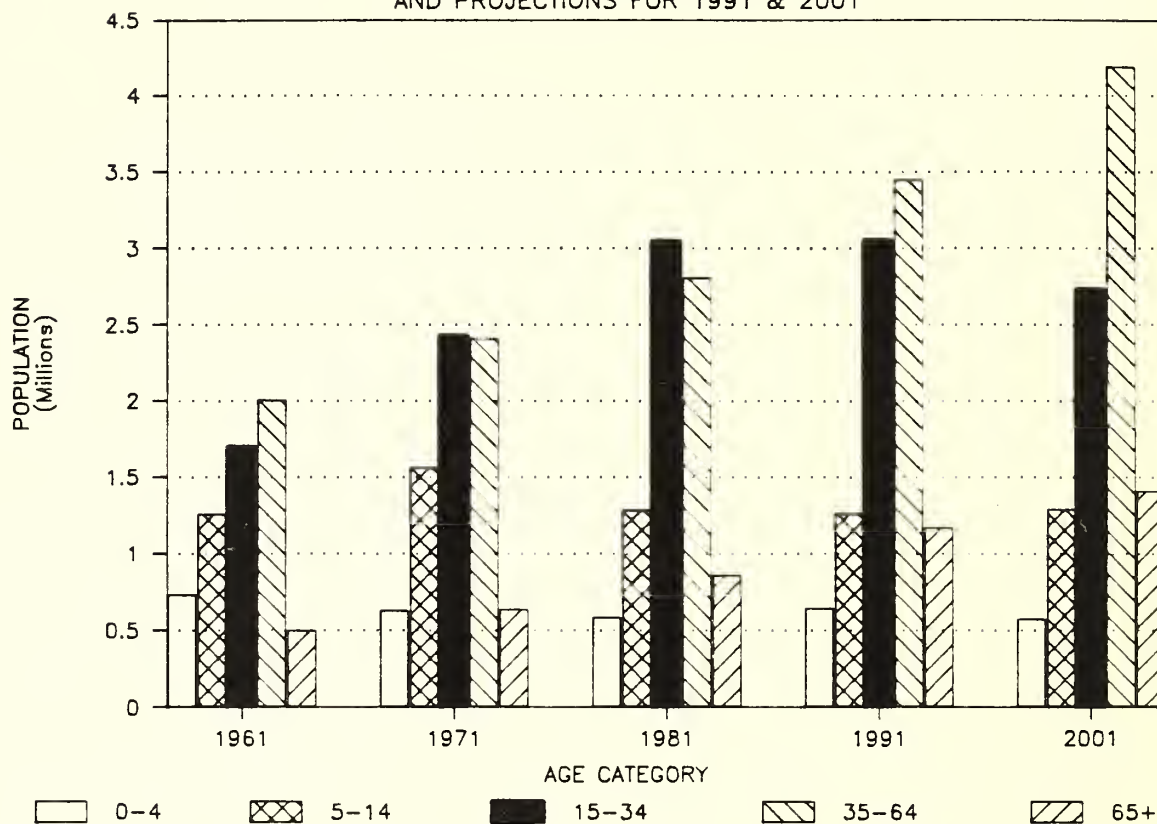
NOTES ABOUT THE POLICE DATA

Police data are based on offences, not charges. Offences are crimes which have been reported to police and charges are laid for approximately 30% of the criminal offences. Police information about drugs, liquor, traffic enforcement, other provincial statutes, and municipal bylaws is probably more reflective of police enforcement priorities, or time available, rather than offences which have taken place. Data about offences not reported, such as information normally available from victimization surveys, are very limited and are not presented here.

GRAPH 1

ONTARIO'S POPULATION 1961, 1971, 1981

AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1991 & 2001



ONTARIO'S POPULATION AND PROJECTED CHANGES TO 1996 AND BEYOND

Overview

Population changes in Ontario between 1961 and 1981 were characterized by intraprovincial migration and age cohort changes. The 15-34 age group displaced the 35-64s as the largest age category in a population which increased almost 50% over the period. In addition, there were large migrations to the province's urban centres, most notably to Central Ontario. It is expected that over the next decade 35-64 year olds will again emerge as the largest age group and the 65 and over (65+) category will become the third largest group.

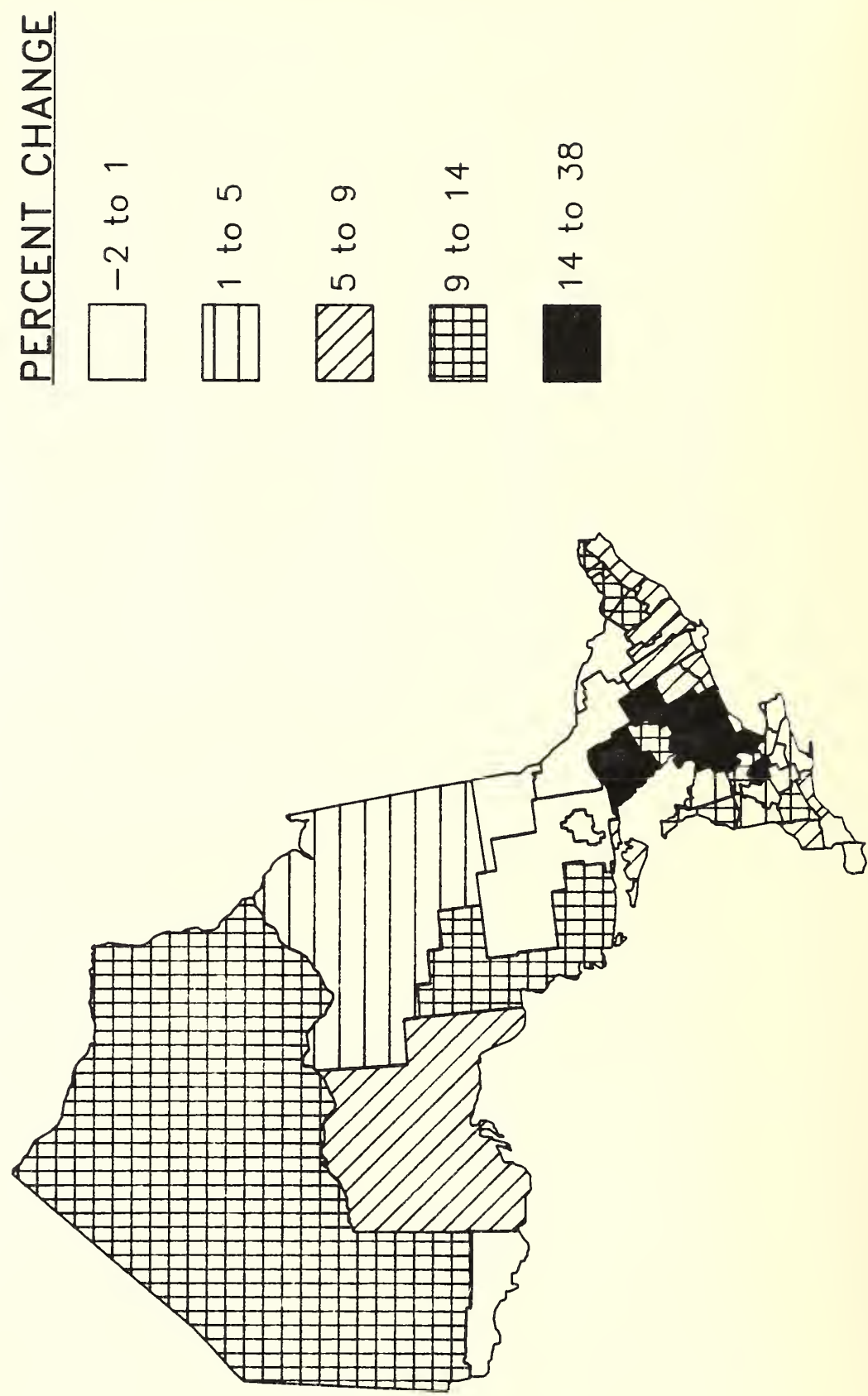
Overall Growth

Ontario's population grew from 6.3 million to over 9.1 million between 1961 and 1986. This was an average 1.5% per year. Over the next decade, the growth rate is expected to decrease to an average of 1% per year and reach the 10 million level. The projected change, if realized, has implications for the justice system in Ontario since changes are expected both in the number of persons in the various age categories, and in the localities in which people live.

Age Cohort Changes

Recent population age cohort changes have been characterized by declines in the younger age groups and the emergence of the 15-34 year age group as the largest age category (Graph 1). Projections to 1991 and 2001 indicate continued decreases in the younger age category (0-4) and continued increases in the older categories (35-64) and (65+). The 15-34 age category which is considered by many researchers to be the most criminally active, is not expected to increase much past the 1981 level. However, the 35-64 age category is expected to re-emerge as the largest age category, and may result in a large group of more sophisticated criminals. The number aged 65 and over is expected to continue to grow and surpass the number of 5-14 year olds.

ONTARIO POPULATION PROJECTIONS, 1986-1996



Population Growth in the Districts

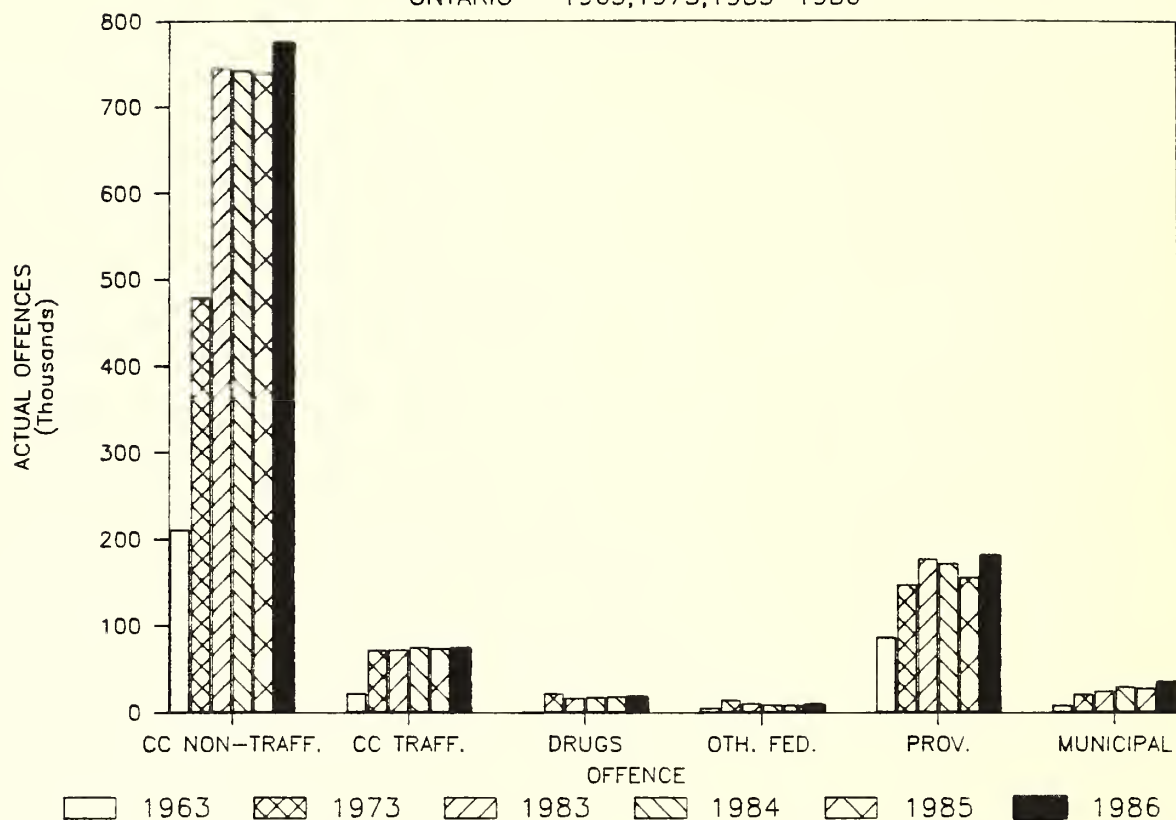
As in recent years, populations among Ontario's counties, regions and districts are expected to increase the most in Central Ontario in the next decade (Map 1). However, the population of Metropolitan Toronto is expected to remain static. There is expected to be zero growth in the counties of Prince Edward, Renfrew, Essex, Kent, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and the Districts of Nipissing, Sudbury, Rainy River and Temiskaming as well.

CRIMINAL MATTERS

GRAPH 2

TRENDS IN MAJOR OFFENCES

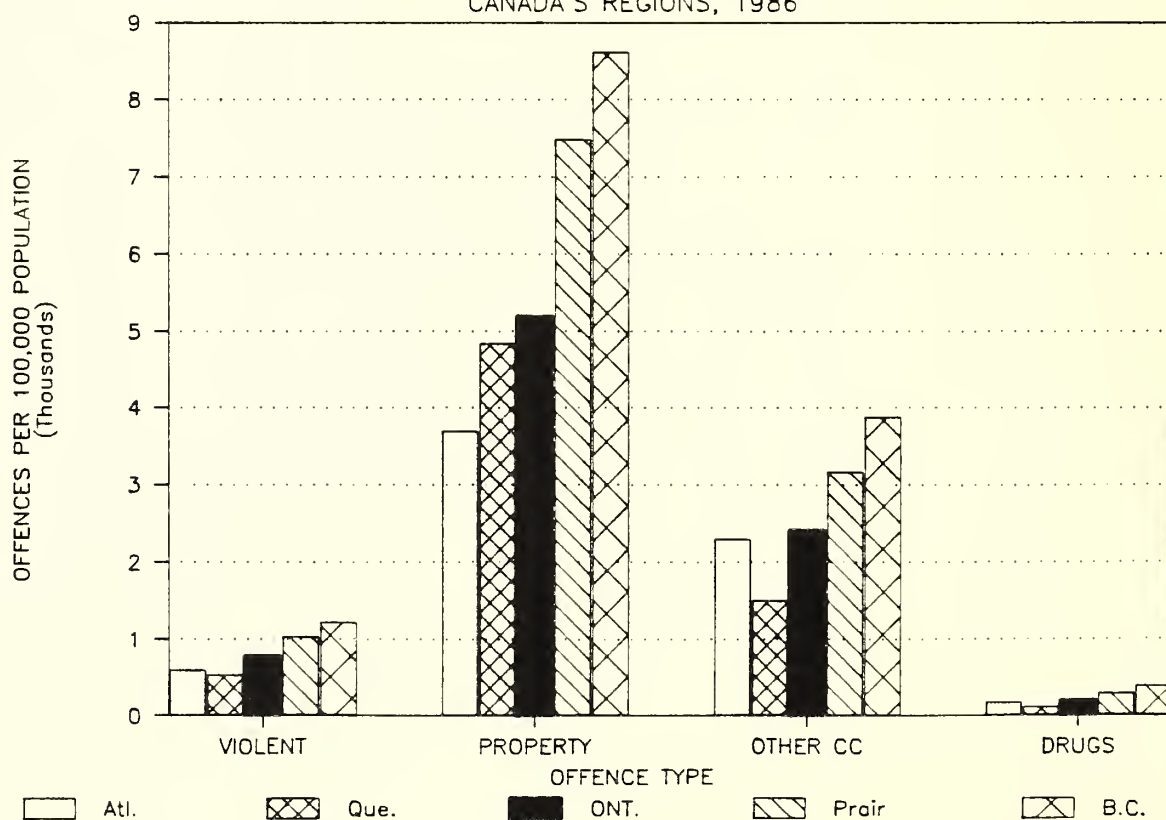
ONTARIO - 1963, 1973, 1983-1986



GRAPH 3

ACTUAL OFFENCES PER 100,000 POPULATION

CANADA'S REGIONS, 1986



OFFENCES REPORTED TO POLICE

Overall Trends in Offences in Ontario

The number of serious offences (Criminal Code and drug) increased in Ontario in 1986 for the first time since 1981. There were 860,892 Criminal Code and drug offences in 1986, the highest since 1981 when there were 889,524 such offences. The increase occurred mainly for non-traffic Criminal Code offences and its subcategories, violent, property, and other non-traffic Criminal Code offences. Criminal Code traffic and drug offences were at their previous levels (Graph 2). In addition to the above, provincial statute (PROV) and municipal bylaw offences each increased in 1986.

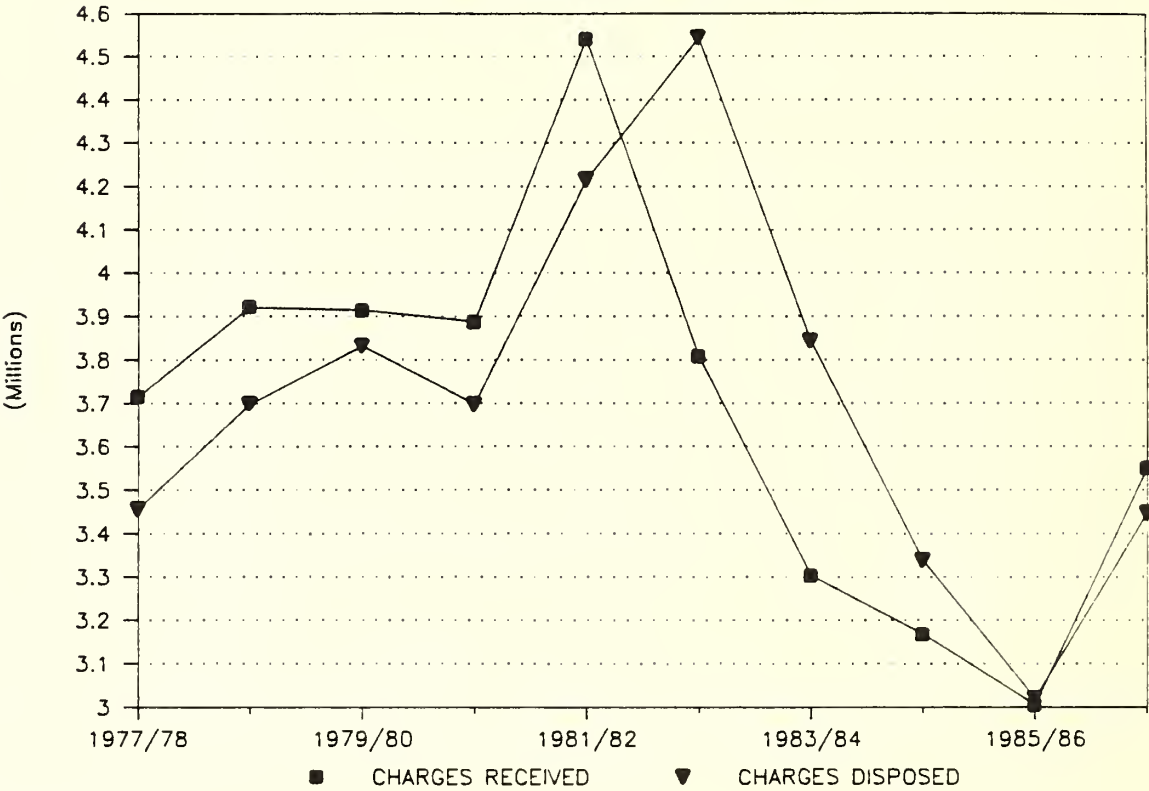
The Crime Rate in Ontario in Comparison to Canada's Regions

In 1986, Ontario's rate for serious crimes was higher than the rates for the eastern provinces and lower than the rates for the western provinces. Across Canada, in 1986 the offence rate for non-traffic Criminal Code and drug offences was 9,089 per 100,000 population. Ontario's rate was 8,644. British Columbia had the highest rate, 14,179. Newfoundland had the lowest rate, 5,521. This east-west differential also occurred for most of the subcategories (Graph 3). The largest subcategory was property offences for which Ontario's rate was higher than the Atlantic region and lower than British Columbia and the Prairie region.

GRAPH 4

TRENDS IN CHARGES RECEIVED AND DISPOSED

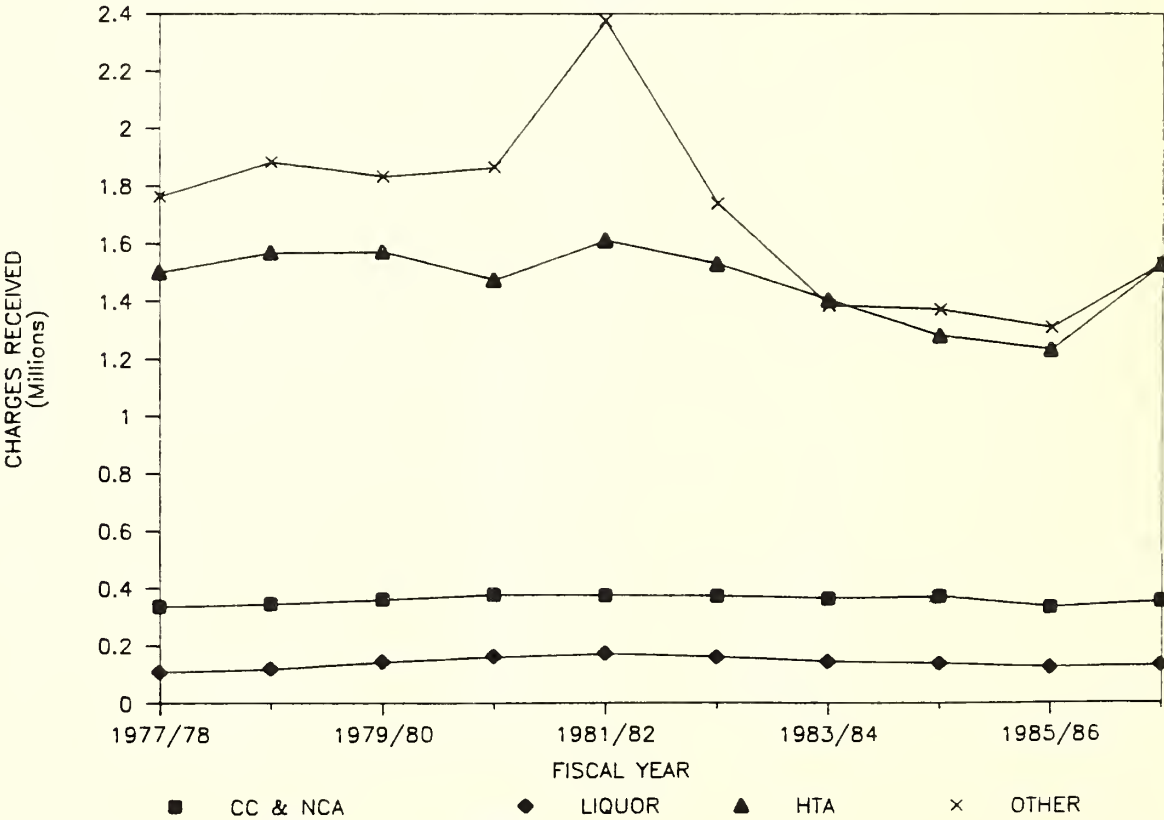
PROVINCIAL COURT (CRIMINAL DIVISION)



GRAPH 5

CHARGES RECEIVED IN PROVINCIAL COURT

ONTARIO



PROVINCIAL COURT (CRIMINAL DIVISION) TRENDS

Overview

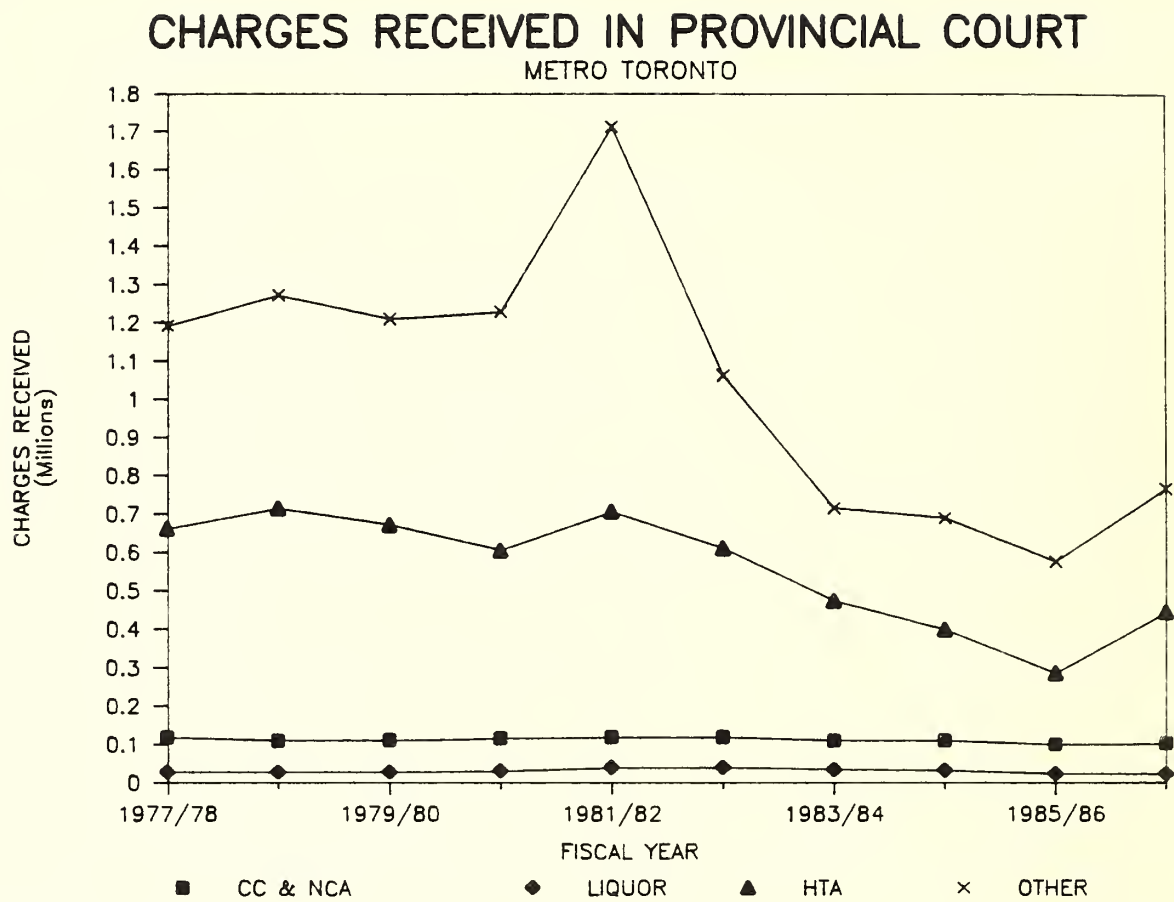
Recent trends in the Provincial Court (Criminal Division) for charges received and disposed have mirrored the general crime trend. Specifically, there were annual decreases after 1981/82 until last year when the number increased. The increases in court activity were mainly in the HTA and "other" statutes categories, the latter of which consisted mainly of municipal bylaws. The more serious categories of Criminal Code and drug charges also increased, and there was a resultant increase in the case inventory which was particularly notable in some districts.

Charges Received

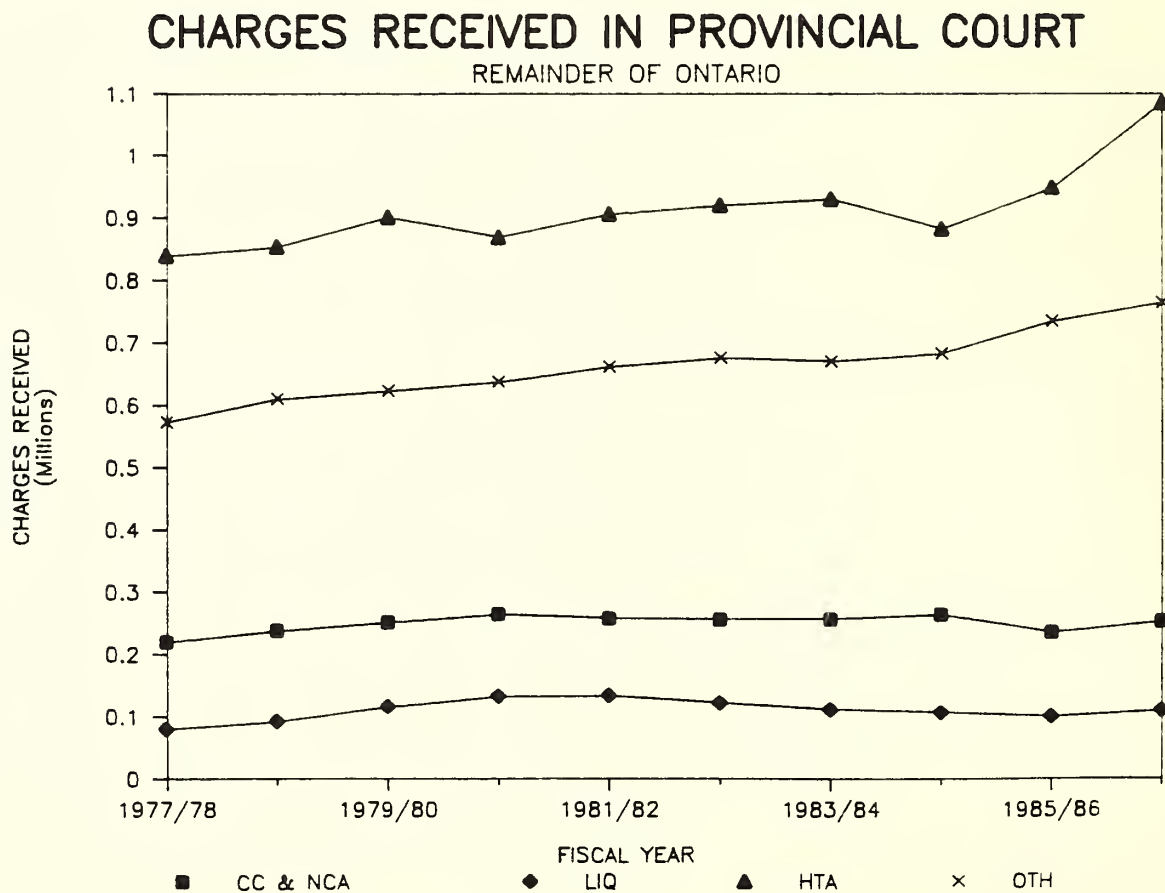
The number of charges received and disposed in Provincial Court (Criminal Division) increased in 1986/87, the first time since 1981/82. In 1977/78, 3.7 million charges were received in Provincial Court (Criminal Division). The number increased to over 4.5 million by 1981/82, but decreased to the 3 million level in 1985/86. The number increased to over 3.5 million last year. Until last year, the number of charges disposed generally reflected the number of charges received in the previous year (Graph 5).

Overall, charges received for Criminal Code and drug (CC & NCA) offences increased from the 338,000 level to the 357,000 level between 1977/78 and 1986/87. The number peaked in 1980/81 at the 380,000 level. Municipal bylaw and Highway Traffic Act charges have traditionally been the largest category of charges received in this court, and the overall increase in 1986/87 was mainly in these categories (Graph 6). Before 1983/84, the number of HTA charges received was notably lower than the number of "other" charges received. Since then, the two categories have remained approximately equal.

GRAPH 6



GRAPH 7



Recently, the number of charges received has shown different trends for Metropolitan Toronto and the remainder of Ontario (Graphs 6 and 7). In Metropolitan Toronto, the number of HTA and Other Statutes (Oth) charges, which includes municipal bylaws, had been decreasing. However, the number increased last year. In the remainder of Ontario, HTA and "other" statute charges have increased steadily over the last decade.

In the districts, the largest increases were in Huron, Metropolitan Toronto, York Region, and Cochrane Districts (Map 2). There were decreases in Peel, Muskoka, Hamilton-Wentworth, Northumberland, Lennox and Addington, and Frontenac Districts. The decrease in Peel occurred mainly for municipal bylaws. Due to insufficient court dates, not all the parking infractions were processed by the municipality.

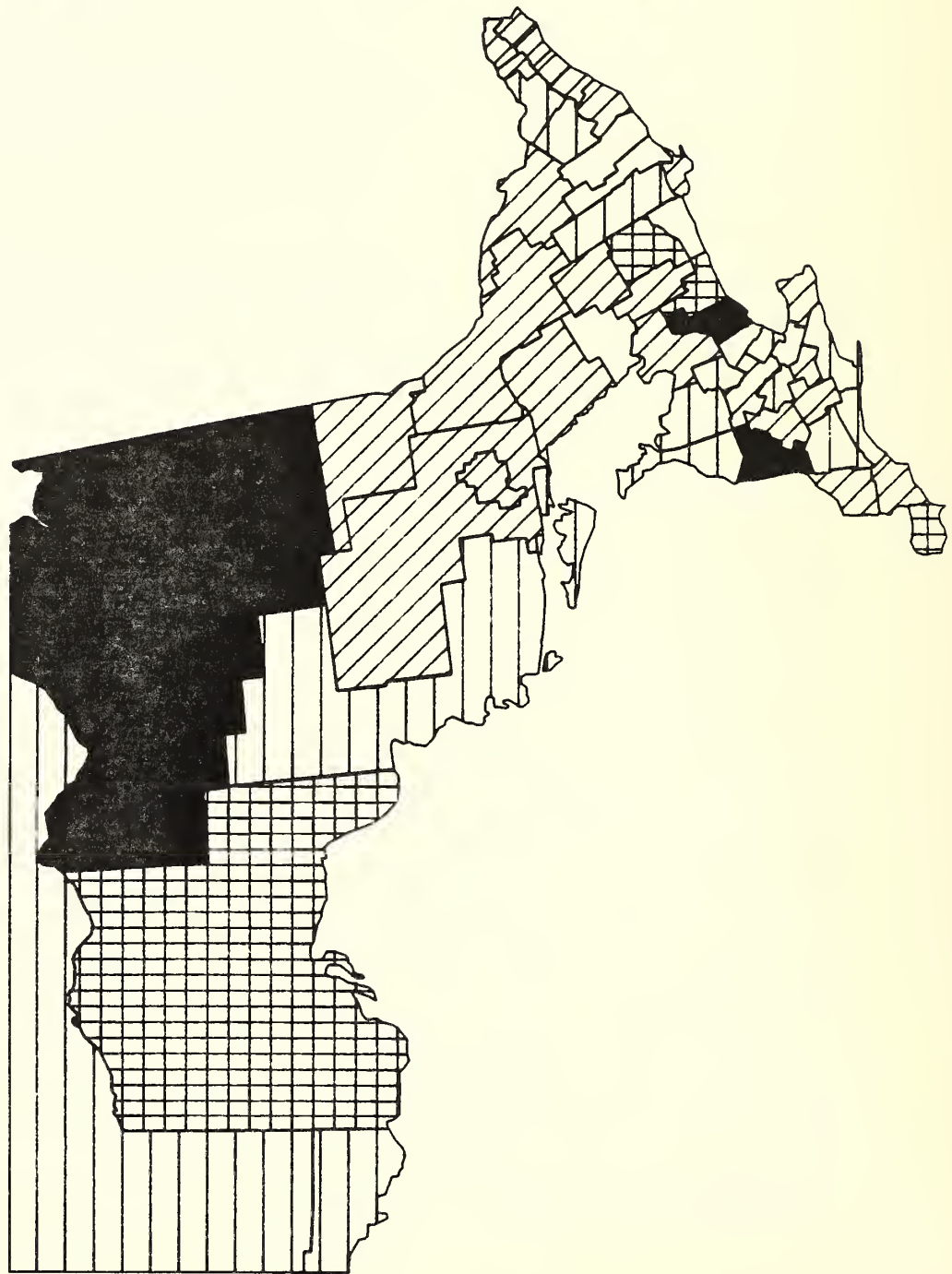
Charges Disposed

Like charges received, the number of charges disposed increased in 1986/87 for the first time following a series of annual decreases. The increase was in the liquor (LIQ), Highway Traffic Act (HTA) and "other" statute (OTH) categories. Criminal Code and drug (CC/DRUGS) dispositions decreased for the second time since the implementation of the uniform age provisions of the Young Offenders Act (Graph 8). For charges disposed IN COURT (Graph 9), except for liquor offences, a similar change occurred.

In 1986/87, the inventory of Criminal Code charges pending increased. There were 299,785 Criminal Code charges disposed, and at year-end there were 107,085 charges pending (Table 1). This translates to a case inventory of 4 months, an increase from 3 months in 1982/83. The case inventory is the estimated time it would take to process the cases pending at year-end if no other cases were added.

The largest Criminal Code case inventories in 1986/87 were in Metropolitan Toronto, Peel, Ottawa-Carleton, Hamilton-Wentworth, Simcoe, Durham Region, York Region, Essex, and Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. The following are some notes on these districts (Table 2).

PROVINCIAL COURT(CRIMINAL) CHARGES RECEIVED % CHANGE 85/86-86/87



PERCENT CHANGE

□ -35 to 0

▬ 0 to 11

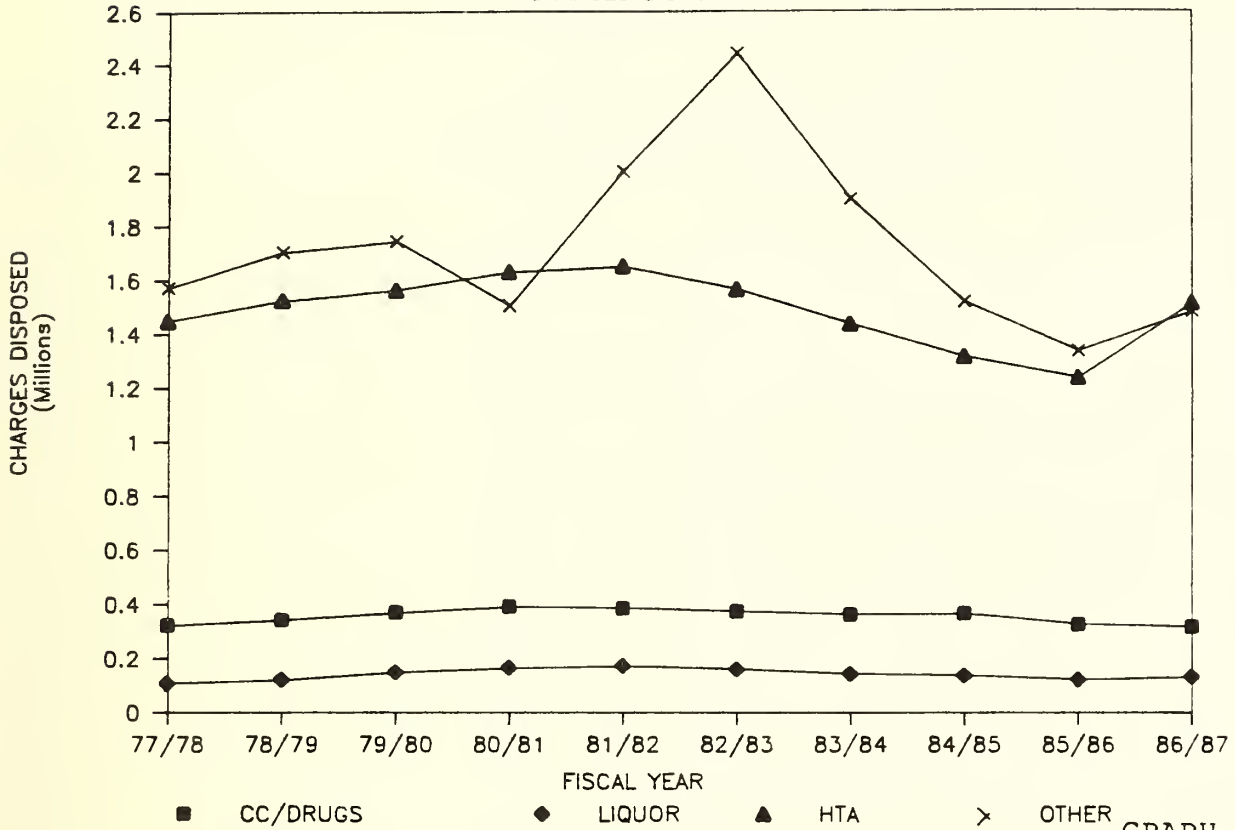
▨ 11 to 22

▩ 22 to 33

■ 33 to 42

PROVINCIAL COURT (CRIMINAL DIVISION)

CHARGES DISPOSED



GRAPH 9

PROVINCIAL COURT (CRIMINAL DIVISION)

CHARGES DISPOSED IN COURT

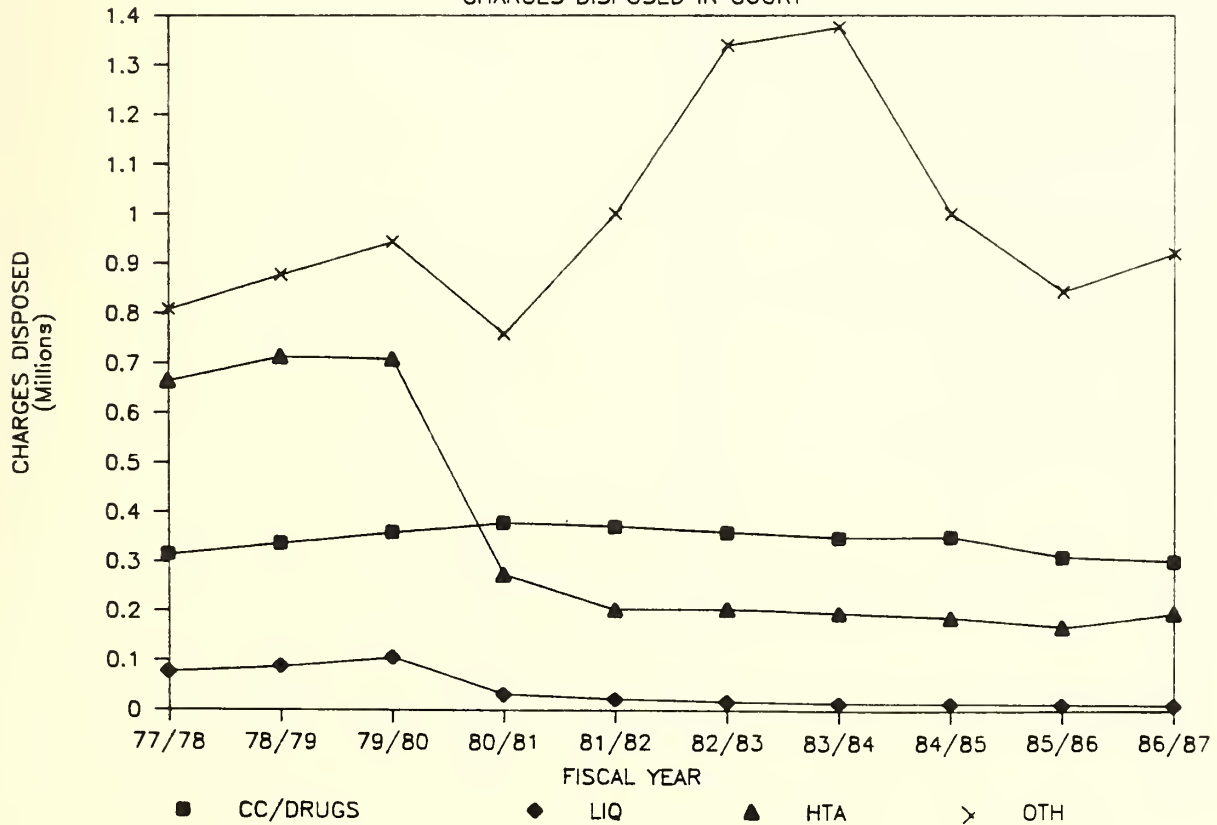


TABLE 1

PROVINCIAL COURT (CRIMINAL DIVISION),
CRIMINAL CODE CHARGES DISPOSED IN COURT, CHARGES PENDING,
AND CASE INVENTORY

	1986/87 CCC Charges Disposed	Matters Pending	Case Inventory (Months)	
			1982/83	1986/87
Toronto	88447	37605	2	5
Peel	14155	9681	6	8
Ottawa-Carleton	13607	6049	3	5
Hamilton-Wentworth	12162	5997	3	6
Middlesex	11213	1044	2	1
Simcoe	10232	3386	3	4
Waterloo	9269	na	3	na
Durham	9068	3763	2	5
York	8710	4817	4	7
Essex	8638	8024	4	11
Thunder Bay	7195	1306	1	2
Algoma	6366	1657	3	3
Niagara South	6340	1818	3	3
Halton	5949	1342	2	3
Niagara North	5707	1198	3	3
Sudbury	5441	1212	1	3
Peterborough	4779	1544	2	4
Frontenac	4267	207	2	1
Lambton	4154	1496	3	4
Brant	3989	953	2	3
Hastings	3859	1008	2	3
Cochrane	3724	1056	1	3
Kenora	3632	126	2	0
Wellington	3320	354	2	1
Kent	3216	1392	2	5
Renfrew	2906	717	2	3
Nipissing	2864	610	2	3
Stormont Dundas & Glengarry	2802	1179	2	5
Northumberland	2716	725	2	3
Victoria & Haliburton	2470	265	3	1
Oxford	2374	na	2	na
Elgin	2360	761	3	4
Leeds & Grenville	2273	315	1	2
Bruce	2122	486	2	3
Perth	2004	543	3	3
Grey	1835	224	1	1
Temiskaming	1809	238	1	2
Lanark	1436	118	2	1
Parry Sound	1422	394	3	3
Norfolk	1384	345	1	3
Muskoka	1335	380	2	3
Dufferin	1238	377	5	4
Prescott & Russell	1195	160	3	2
Haldimand	1186	167	2	2
Huron	1164	238	4	2
Lennox & Addington	1138	158	1	2
Rainy River	1070	179	4	2
Manitoulin	750	89	1	1
Prince Edward	493	na	1	na
	299785	105703	3	4

Case Inventories in Selected Districts

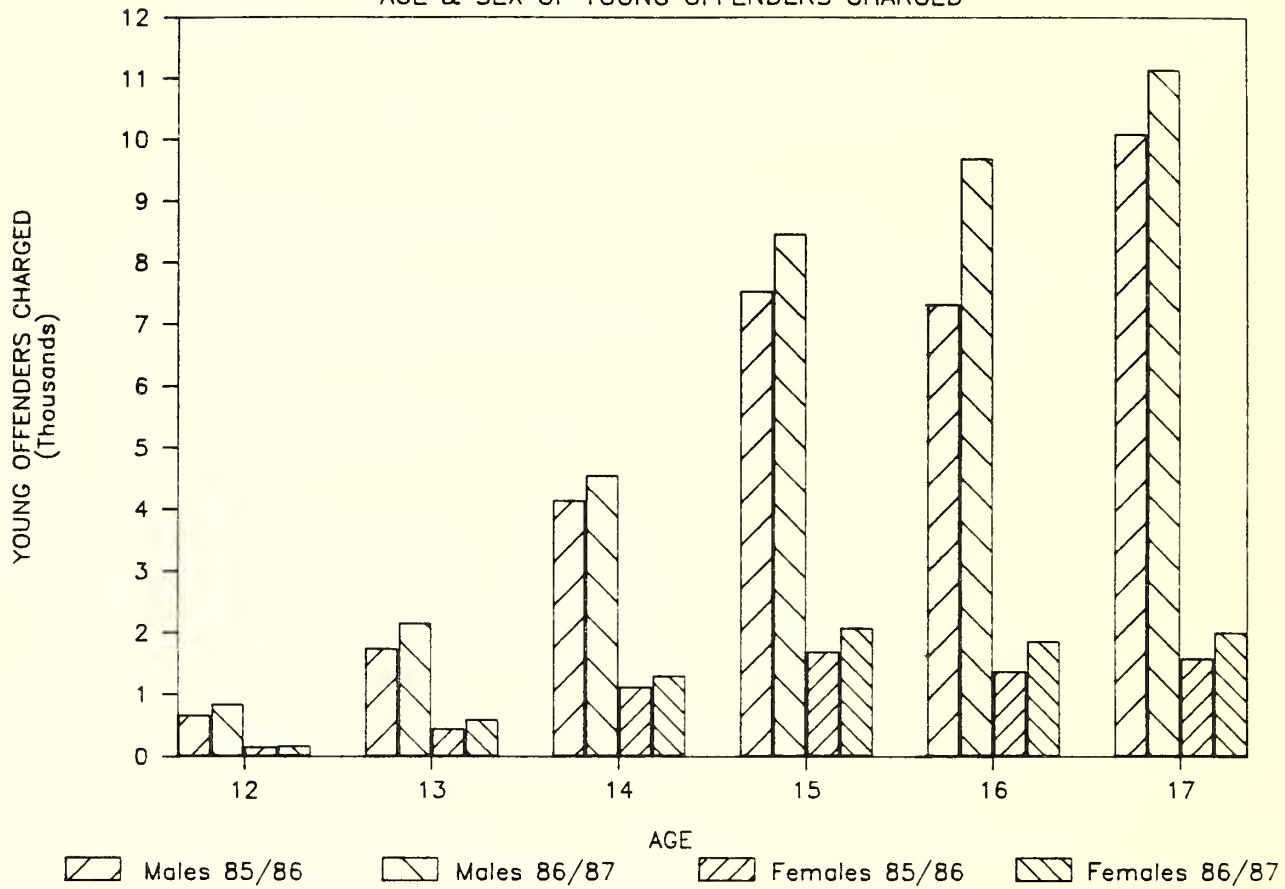
- . In Metropolitan Toronto, the number of Criminal Code cases pending doubled between 1982/83 and 1986/87. As a result, the case inventory increased from 2 to 5 months.
- . In Peel Region, the number of Criminal Code matters pending increased from 5,941 to 9,691 between 1985/86 and 1986/87. This resulted in a case inventory increase from 4 to 8 months in one year.
- . In Ottawa-Carleton, the case inventory reached 5 months as the number of cases pending passed 6000.
- . In Hamilton-Wentworth, the case inventory increased from 2 to 5 months between 1983/84 and 1986/87.
- . In Middlesex, the case inventory in 1986/87 was one month, a decrease from previous levels.
- . In Simcoe, the case inventory increased from 2 to 4 months between 1985/86 and 1986/87 as the number pending increased from 1,778 to 3,386.
- . In Durham Region, the number of cases pending increased from 2,290 to 3,763 between 1985/86 and 1986/87. This resulted in an increase of the case inventory from 3 months to 5 months.
- . In York Region, the case inventory increased from 4 months in 1984/85 to 7 months last year.
- . In Essex, the number of cases pending increased from 3,917 in 1985/86 to 8,024 last year. The number pending last year was almost as high as the number disposed resulting in a case inventory of 11 months.

	1982/83				1983/84				1984/85				1985/86				1986/87			
	Rec.	Disp.	Pend.	Inventory	Rec.	Disp.	Pend.	Inventory	Rec.	Disp.	Pend.	Inventory	Rec.	Disp.	Pend.	Inventory	Rec.	Disp.	Pend.	Inventory
Metro Toronto	112014	107720	18704	2	104497	99583	19419	2	104060	99642	24029	3	92682	87743	30488	4	96577	88447	37605	5
Peel	15321	14784	7609	6	18233	18969	5791	4	20403	20006	5905	4	16977	16410	5941	4	18181	14155	9681	8
Ottawa-Carleton	17361	15800	4266	3	17498	15357	5941	5	17375	18073	3943	3	15168	14503	4157	3	16143	13607	6049	5
Hamilton-Wentworth	14934	15217	3936	3	14586	15664	3257	2	15503	14794	3772	3	13518	12869	4221	4	14035	12162	5997	6
Middlesex	12235	12071	2047	2	11018	10776	2532	3	11889	10843	2683	3	11349	10954	2029	2	12005	11213	1044	1
Simcoe	10417	10090	2652	3	11138	10940	2734	3	11493	11709	2216	2	10209	10380	1778	2	12650	10232	3386	4
Waterloo	12002	11872	2793	3	11661	12244	2645	3	12111	11132	3080	3	9804	10031	2374	3	10110	9269	240	0
Durham Region	9986	10461	1739	2	11261	10439	2661	3	10842	10807	2360	3	9990	9273	2290	3	11293	9068	3763	5
York Region	9982	10952	3374	4	9826	10297	3306	4	10189	9742	3339	4	9444	8775	3832	5	10011	8710	4817	7
Essex	9721	9796	2871	4	9869	9846	2386	3	11531	10490	2800	3	11140	9274	3917	5	11968	8638	8024	11
Niagara South	7241	7532	1777	3	6916	7165	1523	3	6295	6207	1505	3	6439	6276	1665	3	6637	6340	1818	3
Niagara North	6421	6829	1571	3	5793	6004	1618	3	5612	5639	1489	3	5393	5505	1282	3	5675	5707	1198	3
Kent	3397	3308	579	2	3409	3412	517	2	4018	3880	636	2	3315	3229	736	3	3905	3216	1392	5
Storham, Dundas & Glengarry	3066	3102	418	2	3516	3550	398	1	3843	3548	1131	4	2623	2842	821	3	3286	2802	1179	5
Total	244098	239534	54336	3	239221	234246	54728	3	245164	236512	59888	3	218051	208064	65531	4	232476	203566	86193	5
Remainder of Ontario	110260	111882	18881	2	109713	111092	19518	2	110312	111004	16214	2	99539	99380	14032	2	104636	96201	20892	3
Ontario	354358	351416	73217	3	348934	345338	74246	3	355476	347516	75102	3	317590	307444	79563	3	337112	299767	107085	4

- . In Kent, the case inventory increased from 3 months to 5 months between 1985/86 and 1986/87.
- . In Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry, the case inventory increased from 3 months to 5 months between 1985/86 and 1986/87.
- . In summary, in 1982/83, 3 of the districts listed had theoretical backlogs of 4 months or more. In 1986/87, 11 districts had backlogs of 4 months or more.

YOUTH COURT – 1985/86 & 1986/87

AGE & SEX OF YOUNG OFFENDERS CHARGED



YOUTH COURT CRIMINAL AND FAMILY DIVISIONS

Between 1984/1985 and 1986/87 the number of persons charged in Youth Court increased for both Criminal and Family Divisions.

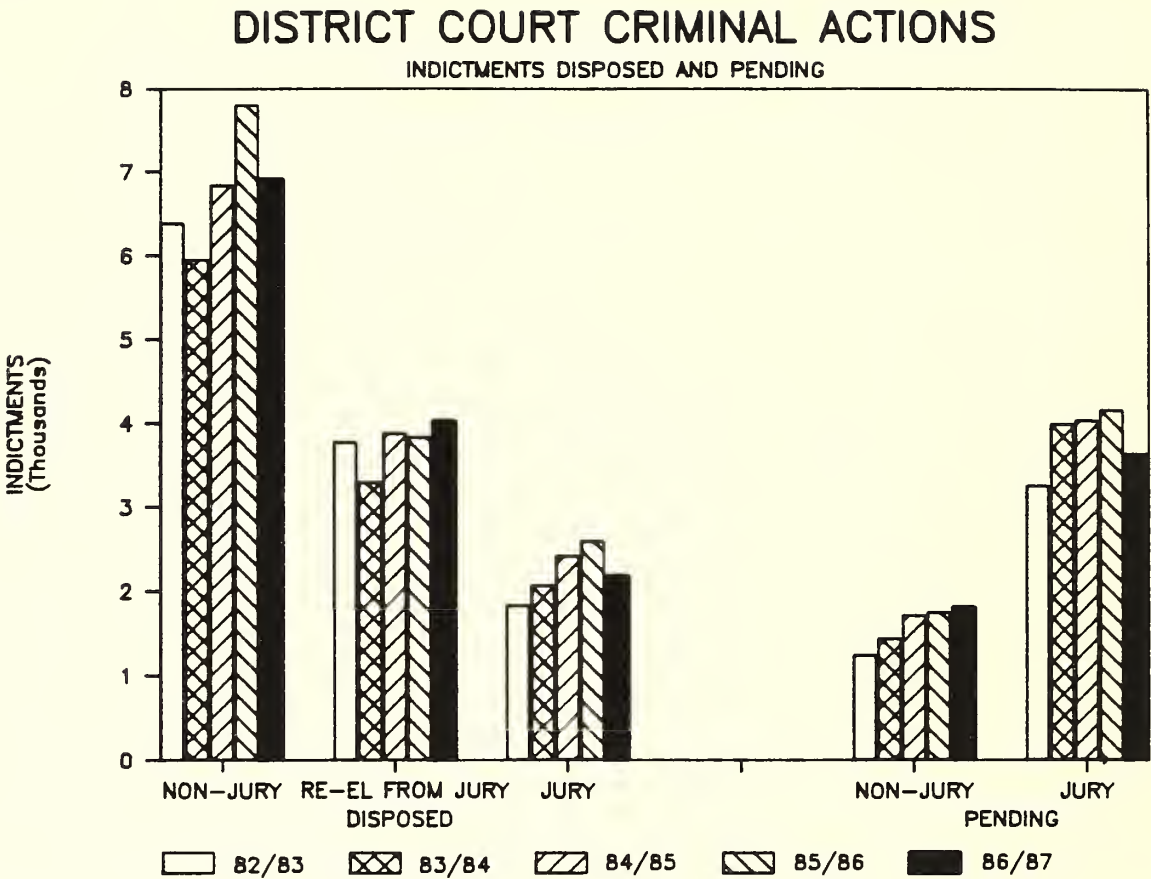
In Youth Court (Family Division) the number of persons charged increased from 17,504 to 20,741. The number of charges disposed increased from 22,239 to 31,074.

In Youth Court (Criminal Division), in 1985/86, the year when the uniform maximum age provisions were enacted, there were 20,692 persons charged and 28,606 charges disposed. Last year there were 24,721 persons charged and 40,080 charges disposed.

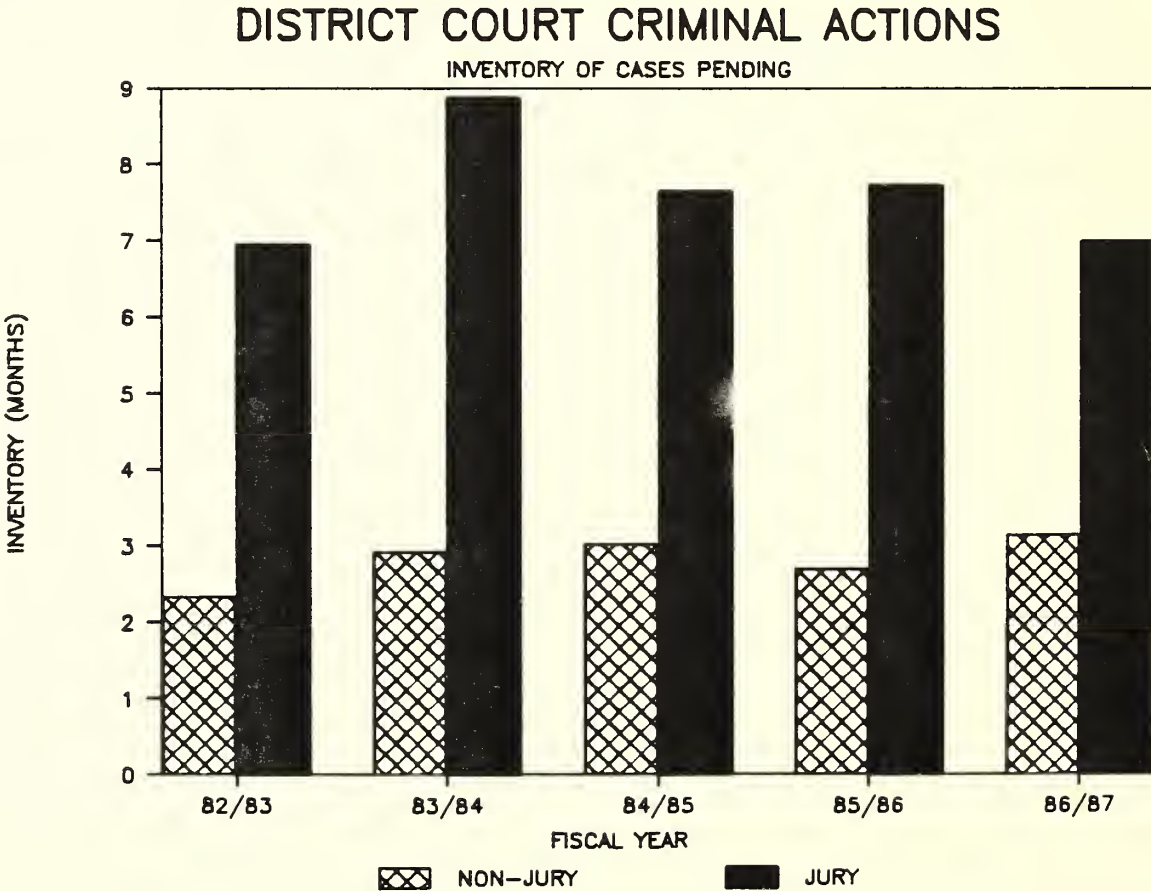
In total there were 45,462 youths charged in 1986/87, an increase from 39,196 the previous year. The increase occurred for each age category for both boys and girls (Graph 10).

In 1986/87, the Ministry of Correctional Services received 1,502 custody orders to secure facilities and 6,059 orders for persons aged 16 and 17 to a term of community supervision.

GRAPH 11



GRAPH 12



DISTRICT COURT CRIMINAL ACTIONS

Overview

In 1986/87, there was a decrease in the number of criminal jury and non-jury cases (indictments) disposed. At the same time, the number of cases pending increased for non-jury matters and decreased for jury matters. The number pending translated to a case inventory averaging 3 months for non-jury matters and 7 months for jury matters. The latter was concentrated mainly in Middlesex, Essex, Niagara, Halton, Waterloo, and those districts around Metropolitan Toronto

Cases Disposed

In 1986/87, there were 6,928 non-jury criminal cases disposed in District Court (Graph 11). This was a decrease from the previous year high of 7,810, and was the first decrease since 1983/84. For criminal jury trials the number of cases also decreased. The number was 6,479 in 1985/86 and 6,250 in 1986/87. Included in these figures are approximately 4,000 indictments which were transferred for non-jury trial.

Cases Pending

In 1986/87, the number of cases pending at year-end increased for non-jury trials, but decreased for jury trials. For non-jury trials, the number of cases pending at year-end increased from 1,791 to 1,832, and for jury trials the number decreased from 4,215 to 3,647 last year. When the number of cases pending is represented as a case inventory (Graph 12), it can be seen that for non-jury trials the case inventory has consistently been at the 3 month level. For jury trials, the overall case inventory has decreased from 9 to 7 months since 1983/84. However, these are average figures and the following is a closer examination of some districts.

TABLE 3

DISTRICT COURT INDICTMENTS PENDING AND PENDING RATES, 1982/83 AND 1986/87												
	Criminal Jury 1982/83			Criminal Jury 1986/87			Criminal Non-Jury 1982/83			Criminal Non-Jury 1986/87		
	Disposed	Pending	Inventories(mos)	Disposed	Pending	Inventories(mos)	Disposed	Pending	Inventories(mos)	Disposed	Pending	Inventories(mos)
Toronto	2732	1387	6	2700	1700	8	3182	289	1	2695	448	2
Peel	283	320	14	507	458	11	217	66	4	538	260	6
Hamilton-Wentworth	474	210	5	407	227	7	114	34	4	340	60	2
Middlesex	184	24	2	353	108	4	144	8	1	402	40	1
Essex	273	257	11	322	231	9	179	75	5	51	39	9
Durham	278	128	6	277	96	4	411	68	2	337	54	2
Ottawa-Carleton	282	189	8	254	na	na	174	20	1	212	na	na
York	53	0	0	164	71	5	54	0	0	186	41	3
Simcoe	58	153	32	113	55	6	54	40	9	107	17	2
Niagara	101	60	7	106	84	10	35	13	4	72	39	7
Halton	80	89	13	105	85	10	47	36	9	126	42	4
Waterloo	109	42		93	48		100	25		80	15	
Frontenac	68	22		87	29		72	5		91	13	
Sudbury & Manitoulin	72	50		78	63		88	50		209	111	
Hastings	65	46		71	38		54	17		41	10	
Prescott & Russell	29	9		60	17		21	10		49	11	
Brant	44	24		46	28		38	11		39	11	
Cochrane	21	31		38	42		110	50		74	48	
Wellington	41	3		37	8		152	29		115	15	
Victoria & Haliburton	28	14		35	7		17	8		26	7	
Lambton	33	7		34	3		18	11		29	11	
Thunder Bay	52	21		32	37		233	103		201	101	
Leeds & Grenville	13	9		32	9		42	11		40	16	
Nipissing	29	35		28	28		63	15		36	34	
Algoma	13	3		27	9		260	117		281	204	
Peterborough	25	7		22	12		6	3		4	3	
Kent	21	13		21	13		59	6		62	16	
Parry Sound	8	6		21	7		21	7		19	12	
Norfolk	12	5		20	9		12	0		32	9	
Elgin	4	23		19	9		30	24		126	22	
Stormont Dundas & Gleng	18	11		17	3		14	0		11	2	
Renfrew	9	5		17	10		91	12		37	24	
Kenora	13	12		14	5		32	5		29	4	
Northumberland	23	7		13	9		12	1		14	3	
Grey	6	16		12	3		65	30		20	5	
Huron	2	4		11	20		0	1		4	15	
Prince Edward	10	2		11	6		12	2		11	2	
Perth	1	5		9	7		35	2		6	3	
Temiskaming	3	1		7	5		34	11		17	5	
Dufferin	13	4		7	4		8	4		7	8	
Lanark	10	5		6	4		5	2		29	16	
Oxford	20	1		4	3		20	10		47	13	
Muskoka	2	10		4	4		21	8		11	2	
Rainy River	3	0		4	5		13	3		48	8	
Bruce	17	1		3	4		18	16		3	7	
Lennox & Addington	12	5		2	11		12	1		7	5	
Haldimand	0	2		0	3		0	2		7	1	
	5647	3278	7	6250	3647	7	6405	1261	2	6928	1832	3

Case Inventories in the Districts

In the districts where there were more than 100 jury cases disposed in 1986/87 (Table 3), the case inventory of jury cases ranged between 4 months in Durham and Middlesex, to 11 months in Peel. For non-jury cases, the inventory ranged between 1 month in Middlesex to 9 months in Essex. Table 4 displays detailed disposition data for these districts, and some others. The following are some notes on these districts comparing 1987/86 with 1982/83.

Metropolitan Toronto:

For jury trials, the case inventory increased from 6 months to 8 months (Table 3), while at the same time there was an increase in the number of counts added and the net number disposed (Table 4). The increase in the number disposed was mainly the result of an increase in the number of guilty pleas and the number withdrawn or stayed. The number found guilty and dismissed or acquitted decreased.

For non-jury actions, the case inventory increased from 1 to 2 months (Table 3). This coincided with a decrease in the number of counts added and the net number of counts disposed. The latter was mainly due to a large decrease in the number dismissed or acquitted.

Peel:

The case inventory in jury trials decreased from 14 to 11 months, in spite of an increase in counts added. The increase in counts disposed resulted from an increase in counts re-elected for non-jury trial. The number found guilty and dismissed or acquitted decreased modestly.

The non-jury case inventory increased from 4 to 6 months and resulted from a large increase in the number found guilty and dismissed or acquitted.

TABLE 4

DISTRICT COURT JURY ACTIONS, COUNTS DISPOSED, SELECTED DISTRICTS, 1982/83	DISTRICT COURT NON-JURY ACTIONS, COUNTS DISPOSED, SELECTED DISTRICTS, 1982/83									
	Added Counts	Disposed Counts	Indictments	Re-elect Change	PCPD Venue	NET Disposed /Stayed	Withdawn Guilty /Acquitte	Found Guilty /Acquitte	Found Guilty /Acquitte	Found Guilty /Acquitte
Toronto	2292	8110	2732	7365	24	15	706	268	0	194
Pee1	291	772	283	490	5	0	277	50	56	96
Hamilton-Wentworth	422	882	474	0	0	0	882	367	422	56
Middlesex	174	390	184	201	22	0	167	24	10	84
Essex	303	672	273	210	18	0	444	153	169	24
Durham	265	1003	278	932	0	7	64	28	11	9
Ottawa-Carleton	272	636	282	322	44	3	267	77	42	61
York	92	198	53	123	4	5	66	38	1	17
Simcoe	132	136	58	61	0	0	75	13	0	44
Niagara	106	263	101	33	84	3	145	37	49	35
Halton	108	193	80	0	9	0	184	58	76	37
Waterloo	85	229	109	115	34	0	80	16	13	35
Frontenac	51	128	68	49	15	0	64	41	13	6
Sudbury & Manitou	77	140	72	25	8	0	107	14	21	41
Cochrane	86	194	65	10	0	0	184	26	84	43
Hastings	38	46	21	20	0	0	26	1	10	13
Mellington	24	104	41	79	3	0	22	7	4	9
Thunder Bay	54	107	52	64	2	0	41	8	18	7
Algoma	8	21	13	0	0	0	27	1	5	12
Elgin	25	11	4	0	3	0	8	0	4	3

DISTRICT COURT JURY ACTIONS, COUNTS DISPOSED, SELECTED DISTRICTS, 1986/87	DISTRICT COURT NON-JURY ACTIONS, COUNTS DISPOSED, SELECTED DISTRICTS, 1986/87									
	Added Counts	Disposed Counts	Indictments	Re-elect Change	PCPD Venue	NET Disposed /Stayed	Withdawn Guilty /Acquitte	Found Guilty /Acquitte	Found Guilty /Acquitte	Found Guilty /Acquitte
Toronto	7353	7872	2700	4981	3	22	2666	2179	143	167
Pee1	1118	1322	507	1037	0	0	285	120	17	73
Hamilton-Wentworth	668	690	407	313	0	0	377	287	2	32
Middlesex	1055	819	353	634	0	0	185	28	15	100
Essex	522	554	322	41	12	1	500	118	301	22
Durham	768	909	277	570	0	6	333	91	93	66
Ottawa-Carleton	615	640	254	510	9	5	116	56	0	37
York	598	509	164	417	1	9	82	49	15	4
Simcoe	252	286	113	185	3	3	95	17	3	33
Niagara	328	429	106	190	2	0	237	36	112	69
Halton	259	253	105	180	0	0	73	29	0	30
Waterloo	223	232	93	90	24	1	117	20	9	40
Frontenac	151	169	87	93	5	2	69	8	31	22
Sudbury & Manitou	253	229	78	56	17	0	156	52	64	15
Hastings	239	205	71	13	1	0	191	71	56	28
Cochrane	127	96	38	0	0	0	96	12	29	23
Mellington	64	60	37	33	1	0	26	11	4	5
Thunder Bay	99	55	32	9	0	0	46	19	24	0
Algoma	191	182	27	0	0	0	182	5	6	23
Elgin	72	77	19	12	1	0	64	4	6	14

Hamilton-Wentworth:

The case inventory for jury trials increased as a result of increases in the number of counts added at a time when the number found guilty and dismissed or acquitted remained the same.

The non-jury case inventory decreased in spite of an increase in the number of counts added. The number found guilty and dismissed or acquitted was small both years.

Middlesex:

The case inventory for jury trials increased from 2 to 4 months, and this coincided with an increase in the number found guilty and dismissed or acquitted.

The non-jury case inventory did not change.

Essex:

Essex had the highest inventory for jury trials in 1982/83, and there was a modest decrease in this inventory by 1986/87. This coincided with an increase in counts added and a decrease in the number of counts found guilty and dismissed or acquitted.

The non-jury case inventory increased from 5 months to 9 months in spite of a decrease in the number of counts added and a decrease in the number found guilty and the number dismissed or acquitted.

Durham:

The jury case inventory decreased from 6 to 4 months in spite of an increase in the number of counts added and a decrease in the number found guilty and dismissed or acquitted.

The inventory of non-jury cases remained at 2 months at year-end for 1982/83 and 1986/87. This was in spite of an increase in the number of counts added and the number found guilty and dismissed or acquitted.

Ottawa-Carleton:

The number of jury counts added increased and the number of jury trials decreased. Information on the number of counts pending in 1986/87 was not available.

For non-jury matters, the number of counts disposed increased, but the number of trials remained the same. There was a large increase in the number of guilty pleas.

York Region:

The non-jury case inventory in York was 5 months in March, 1987. Data was first recorded for this district in 1982/83 and that year there were 92 jury counts added and 27 found guilty and dismissed or acquitted. In 1986/87 there were 598 counts added and there were 18 jury trials. There was a large increase in the number of re-elections for non-jury trial.

The inventory of non-jury cases was 3 months in 1986/87 and there were 64 found guilty and dismissed or acquitted. This was an increase from 21 in 1982/83.

Simcoe:

At year-end 1982/83 there were 153 jury counts pending and by 1986/87 that number decreased to 55. The number of counts added increased and the number of found guilty and dismissed or acquitted increased slightly.

For non-jury trial, the inventory decreased from 9 to 2 months. The number of guilty pleas and the number found guilty and dismissed or acquitted almost doubled over the period.

Halton:

For jury cases the case inventory decreased as a result of an increase in the number of re-elections for a non-jury trial. The number of trials decreased slightly.

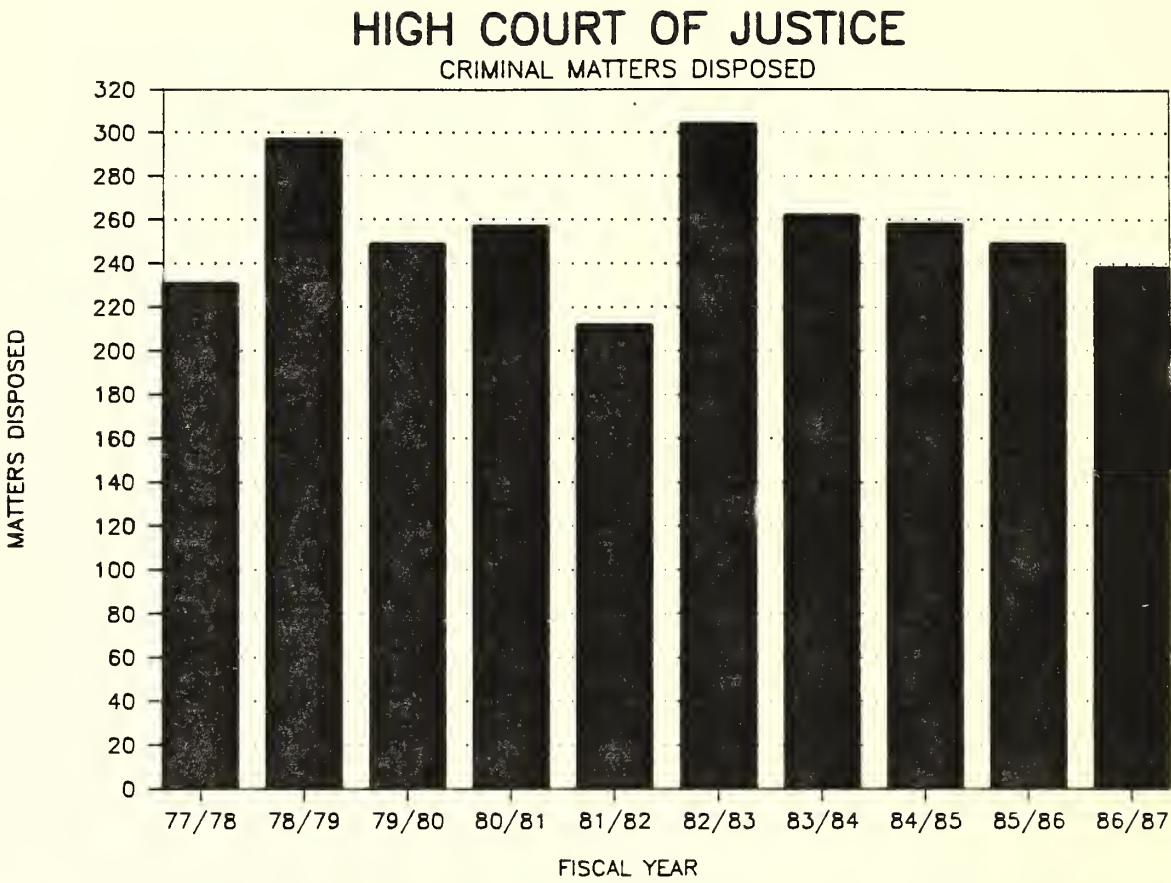
The non-jury case inventory also decreased even though there was an increase in the number of guilty pleas and the number of trials.

Waterloo:

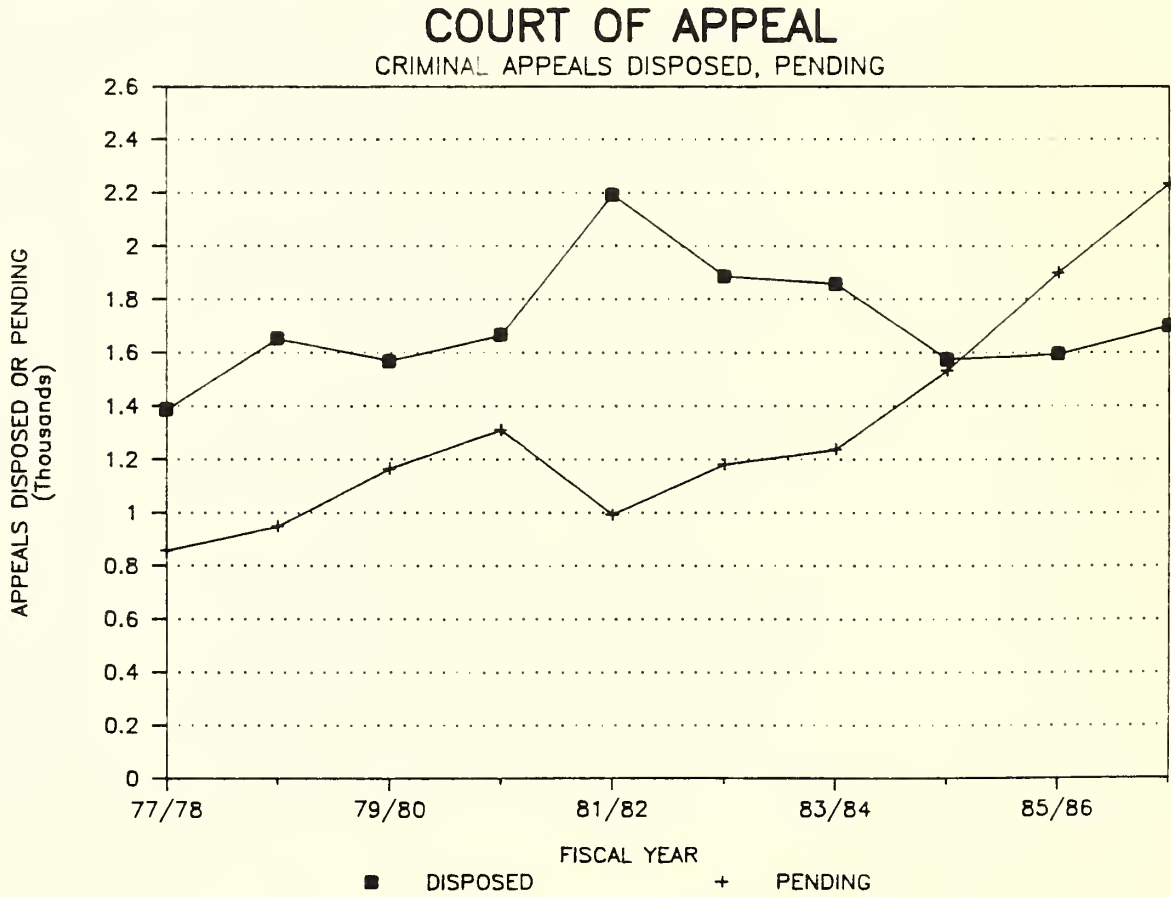
There was only a small case inventory in the judicial district of Waterloo for both jury and non-jury cases.

There was an increase both in the number found guilty and dismissed or acquitted for both jury and non-jury trials.

GRAPH 13



GRAPH 14



SUPREME COURT OF ONTARIO - CRIMINAL MATTERS

High Court of Justice

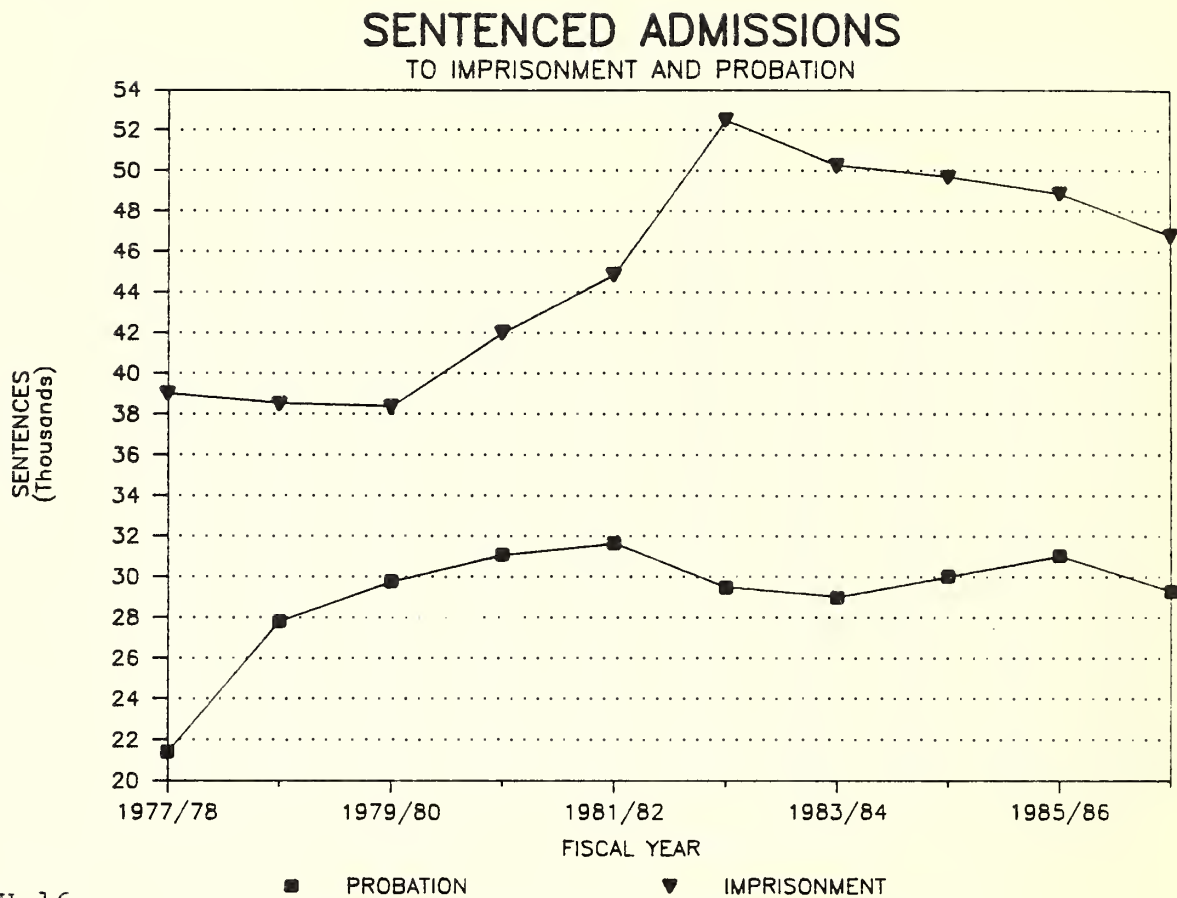
In 1986/87, the number of criminal matters disposed decreased for the fourth consecutive year. Over the 1977/78-1986/87 period the number of criminal matters disposed ranged between 212 in 1981/82 to 304 in 1982/83. There were 238 criminal matters disposed last year (Graph 13).

Court of Appeal (Criminal Appeals)

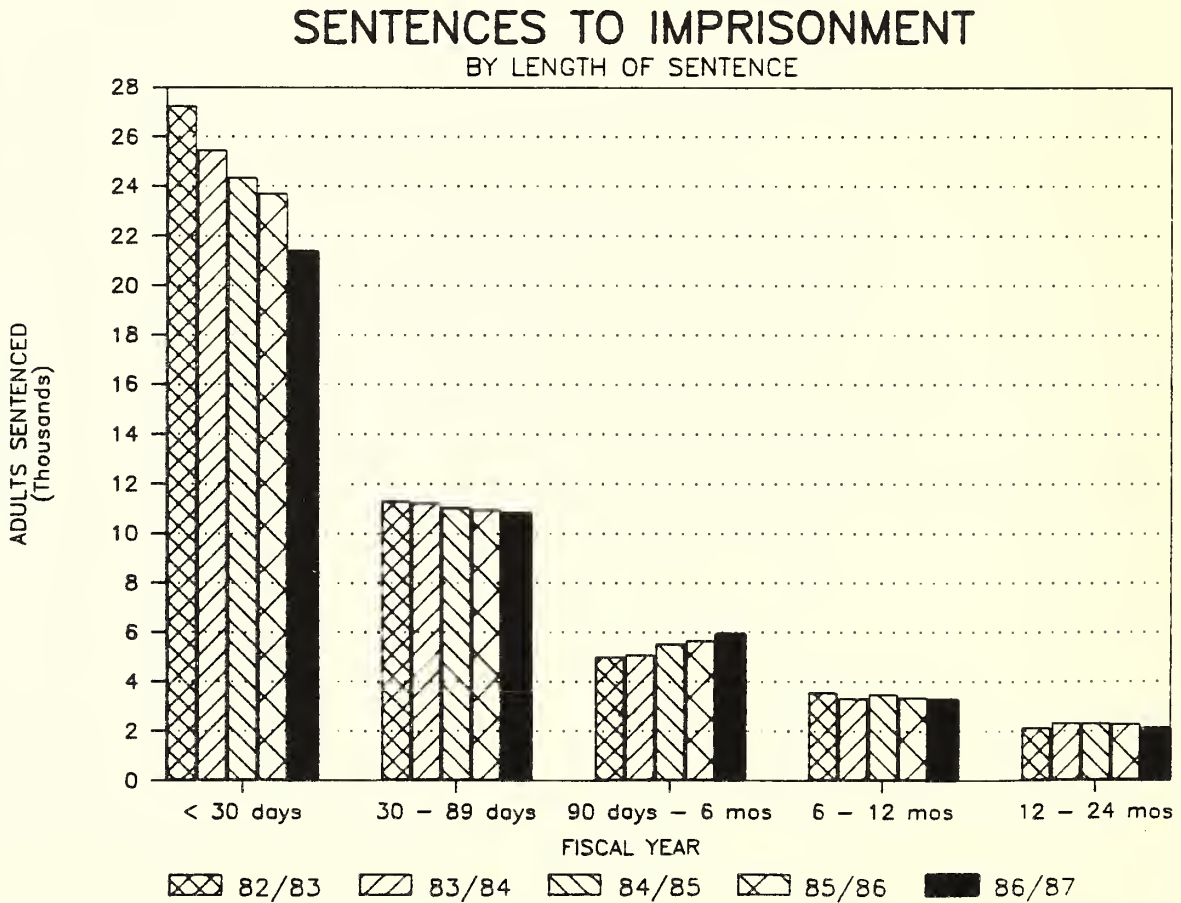
Over the last decade, the number of criminal appeals disposed in the Supreme Court of Ontario, Court of Appeal, has followed the same trend as that in the Provincial Courts (Criminal Division). With this trend, the number increased from the mid-1970's to the early 1980's, declined until 1985/86 but increased last year (Graph 14). The number of dispositions increased from 1,388 in 1977/78 to 2,193 in 1981/82. The number decreased to 1,595 by 1985/86, but increased last year to 1,700.

Over the same period, the number of criminal matters pending at year-end increased from 694 in 1977/78 to 2,235 in 1986/87 (Graph 14). The year 1986/87 was the second in which the number pending exceeded the number disposed, and was the fifth consecutive year for an increase. When the number pending is expressed as a case inventory, the inventory is 16 months. This is over twice the rate of 1983/84 when the inventory was 8 months.

GRAPH 15



GRAPH 16



ADULT CORRECTIONS

Overview

In 1986/87, adult sentences to a term of imprisonment decreased for the fourth consecutive year, and dispositions to a term of probation decreased for the first time since 1983/84. Both types of sentences decreased in comparison to 1985/86 for property, drinking driving, drug and other federal statute offences. Both types increased for violent and miscellaneous non-traffic criminal code (Oth CC) offences. The 16-20 age category was the only group for which the number of imprisonment sentences increased. Dispositions to terms of probation increased for 16-20 year olds and 21-25 year olds.

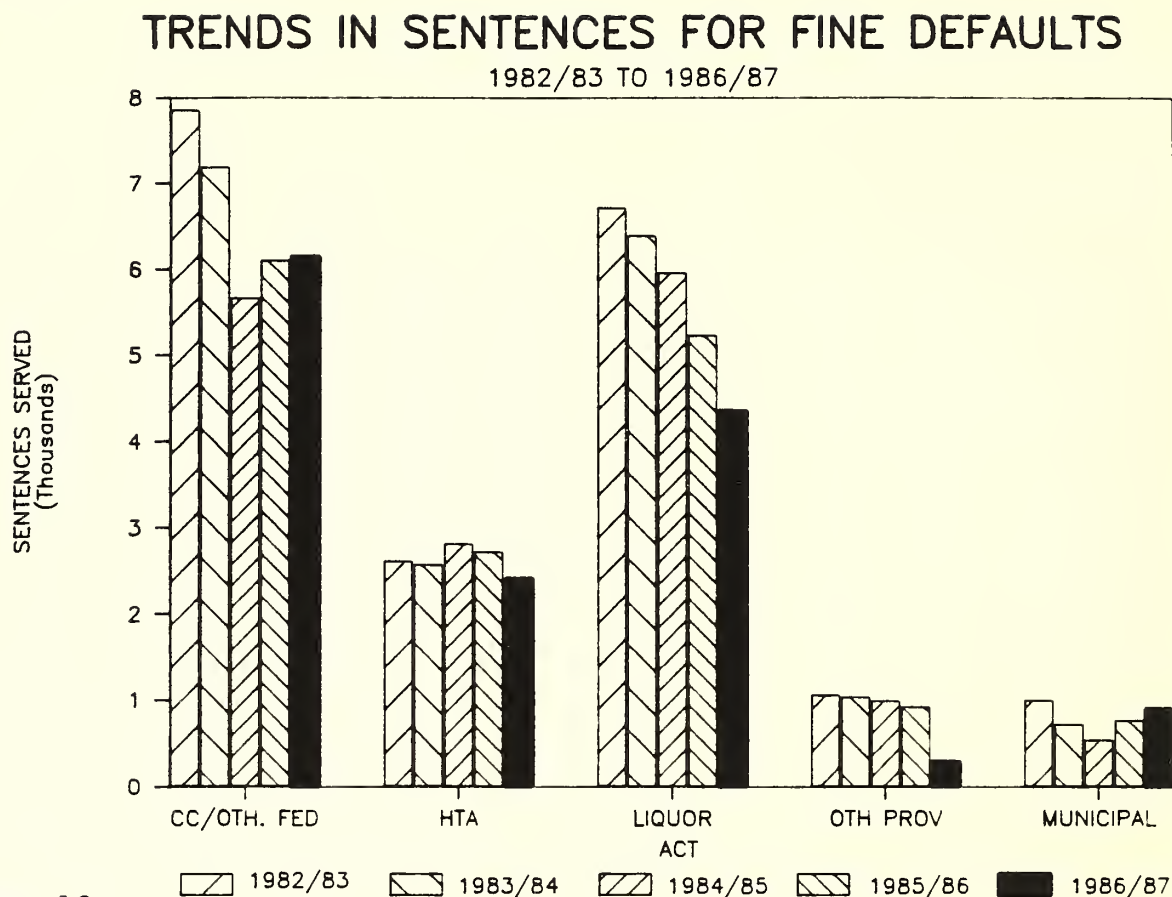
Ten Year Trend

Between 1977/78 and 1986/87, the number of sentences to a term of imprisonment and dispositions to a term of probation increased from 60,445 to 76,104. In particular, the number of sentences to imprisonment increased from 39,032 to 46,808. The peak was in 1982/83 at 52,491. The number of dispositions to a term of probation increased from 21,413 to 29,286, and the number peaked in 1981/82 at 31,665. The aforementioned figures include those 16 years of age and over, sentenced under the terms of the Young Offenders Act (Graph 15).

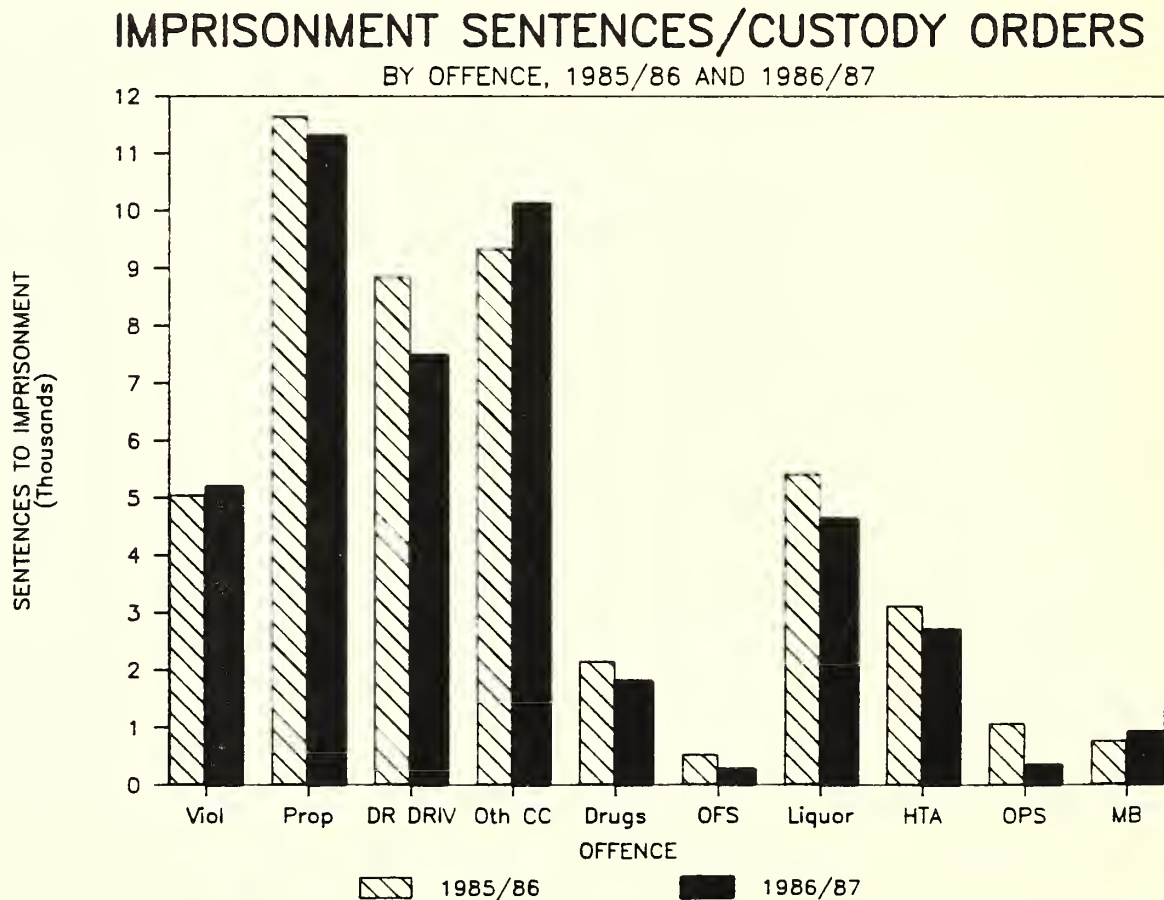
Length of Sentences

The number of sentences to imprisonment decreased in 1986/87 overall in comparison to the previous year and they decreased for each duration category except 90 days-6 months. Graph 16 displays recent trends in the lengths of sentences to imprisonment and includes YOA sentences for 1985/86 and 1986/87. The most common sentence type was less than 30 days. In 1982/83, there were 27,282 sentences of this duration, but the number has decreased annually since then. The 30-89 day and 6-12 month

GRAPH 17



GRAPH 18



sentences also decreased but the 3-6 month sentences increased annually over the period. Longer sentences remained approximately at their same level since 1982/83.

Fine Defaults

In 1986/87, the number of sentences served for non-payment of fines decreased. The number was 15,080 in 1986/87 and was much lower than the number in 1982/83, 19,313. Since 1982/83, Criminal Code, drug offences, and other federal statutes (CC/OTH. Fed) composed the category which had the highest number of fine default sentences (Graph 17). Fine default sentences for Highway Traffic Act offences have remained relatively stable since 1982/83 and sentences for liquor act offences have been decreasing annually.

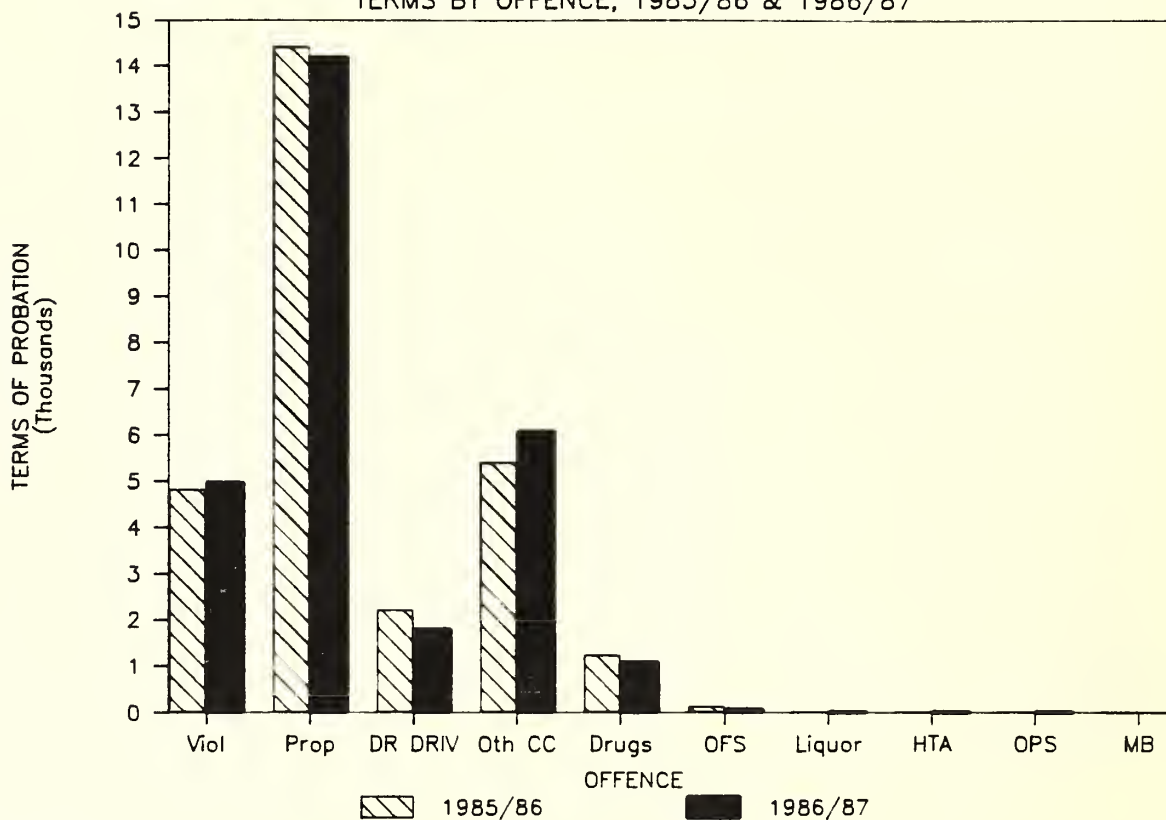
Sentences to Imprisonment and Orders to Secure Custody

The number of sentences to imprisonment decreased in 1986/87 in comparison to the previous year and orders to secure custody increased. There were 45,306 sentences to imprisonment and 1,502 orders to secure custody. This totalled 46,808 sentences of persons 16 years of age and over and was a slight decrease from the 1985/86 figure of 48,834.

Secure custody and imprisonment sentences involved mainly Criminal Code offences, the largest category of which was property offences (Graph 18). These decreased from 11,663 to 11,322 between 1985/86 and 1986/87. Imprisonment sentences for violent offences increased from 5,067 to 5,215 but such sentences for drinking driving offences decreased from 8,874 to 7,510, a 15% decrease. For each of the remaining categories, the number of such sentences decreased.

PROBATION/COMMUNITY SUPERVISION TERMS

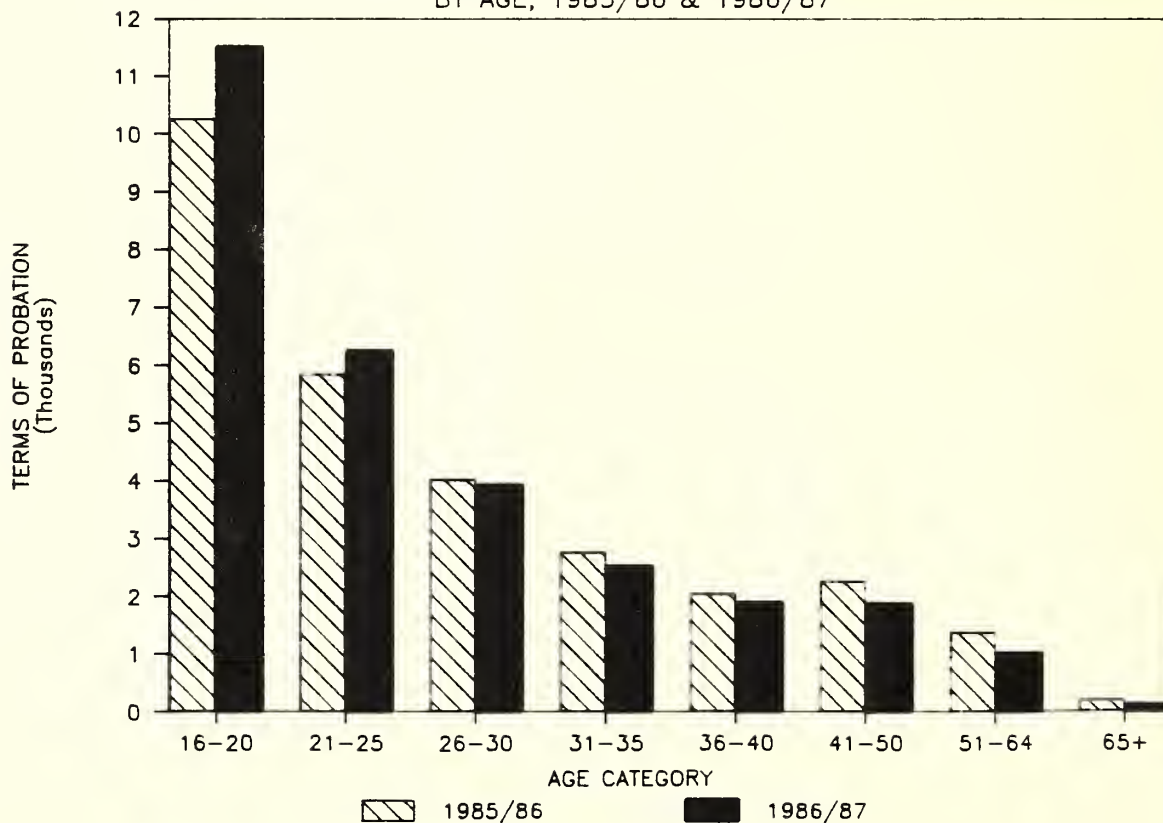
TERMS BY OFFENCE, 1985/86 & 1986/87



GRAPH 20

PROBATION/COMMUNITY SUPERVISION TERMS

BY AGE, 1985/86 & 1986/87



Imprisonment sentences and orders to secure custody decreased for each age category except those aged 16 to 20. The 21-25 year old category composed the largest group at 10,743. This was over 25% of those sentenced.

Terms of Probation and Community Supervision

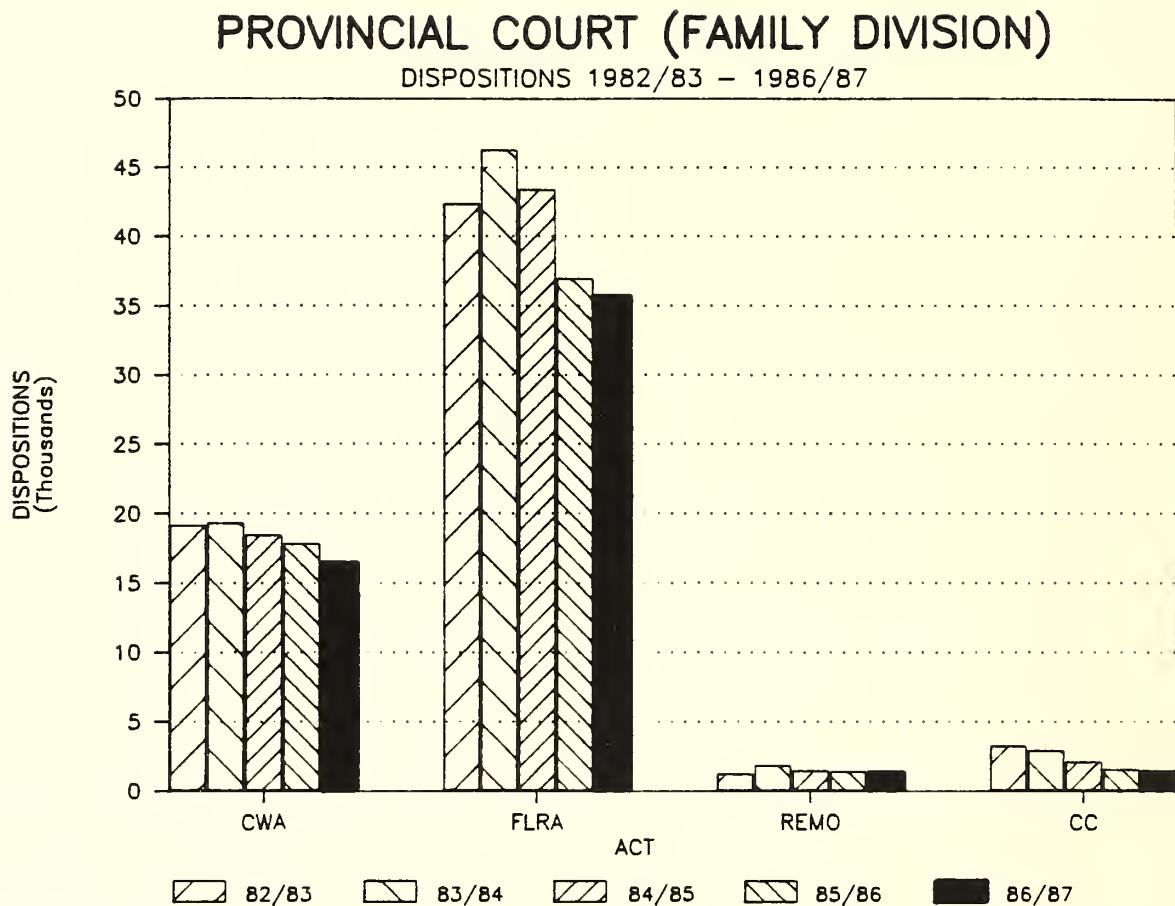
In 1986/87, the number of dispositions to a term of probation decreased, but for young offenders, the number of dispositions to a term of community supervision increased. In total, 29,296 persons (16 and over) commenced a term of probation or community supervision. This compares to a figure of 28,999 the previous year. Included in the 1985/86 figure are 1,099 terms to persons aged 16 and 17 who were charged prior to the enactment of the uniform age provisions of the Young Offenders Act, and 4,444 sentences to persons who were charged and sentenced under the terms of that Act.

Property offences composed the offence type for which the largest number of probation/community supervision terms were given (Graph 19). These, however, decreased from 14,438 to 14,210 between 1985/86 and 1986/87. Violent offences, drinking driving, drug, and other Criminal Code offences each composed a smaller percentage of this sentence type, but only violent and other Criminal Code (Oth CC) sentences increased in comparison to the previous year.

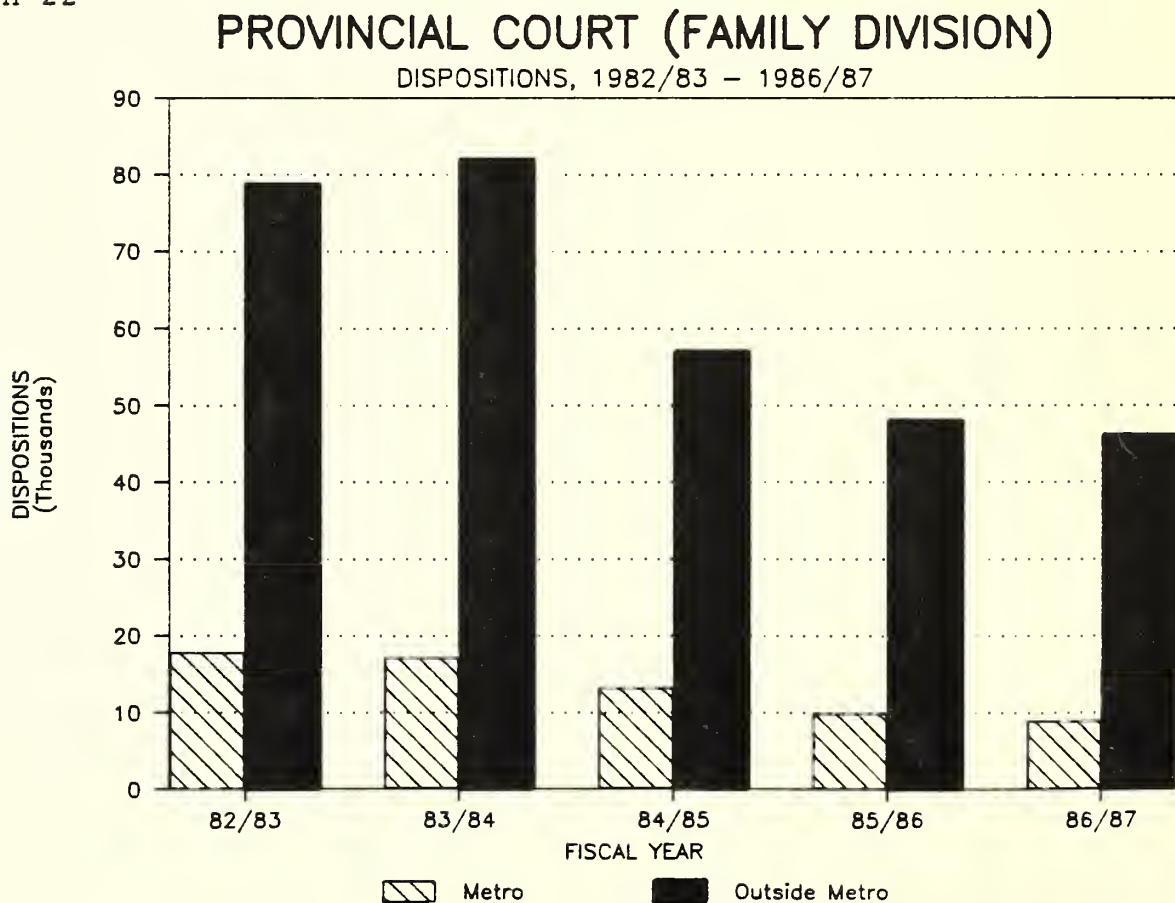
Persons aged 16-20 formed the largest age category for which probation/community supervision dispositions were given and the number increased in comparison to 1985/86. The number decreased for each age category over the age of 25.

NON-CRIMINAL MATTERS

GRAPH 21



GRAPH 22



PROVINCIAL COURT (FAMILY DIVISION)

Overview

Between 1982/83 and 1986/87, the number of matters disposed in Provincial Court (Family Division) decreased from 96,963 to 55,432 (Graphs 21 and 22). The main reason for the decrease was the enactment of the Young Offenders Act and the subsequent transfer of jurisdiction of matters involving young people to the new Youth Courts. Other factors were the increased treatment of domestic assault matters as criminal, and an increase in the use of garnishments as an alternative to court enforcement of an order under the Family Law Act.

Approximately 20% of the dispositions in Provincial Court (Family Division) were in Metropolitan Toronto and 80% were in the remainder of Ontario. Both areas have been experiencing recent decreases

Family Law Act

The largest category of matters disposed was the Family Law Act (FLA), at approximately 40,000. In 1982/83 there were 42,402 such dispositions, but the number increased to 46,316 by 1983/84, and decreased to 35,748 in 1986/87. As was mentioned, the decrease is explainable by different enforcement proceedings under the Act.

Child and Family Services Act

In 1986/87, the number of child welfare (CWA) matters dealt with decreased for the fourth consecutive year. In 1982/83, CWA matters accounted for 19,206 dispositions. In 1985/86 the number decreased to 17,889, and the number further decreased in 1986/87 to 16,541.

Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders

Over the 1982/83-1986/87 period the number of Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders (REMO) disposed peaked in 1983/84 at 1,916. The number has decreased annually since then to 1,427 last year.

Criminal Code

Criminal Code dispositions (CC) have decreased annually from 3,336 to 1,467 over the 82/83-86/87 period. The increased tendency to handle domestic assault matters in the Criminal Courts appears to be the main the factor in this decrease

Juvenile Delinquents Act

In 1986/87, the number of matters dealt with in Youth Court (Family Division) was at the same level as the number previously dealt with under the Juvenile Delinquents Act (JDA). Under that act, there were approximately 30,000 charges disposed annually. Under the Young Offenders Act (YOA) which was enacted on April 1, 1984, the number of charges disposed in the Youth Court (Family Division) was 22,239 in 1984/85, 28,662 in 1985/86 and 31,074 in 1986/87.

Cases Pending

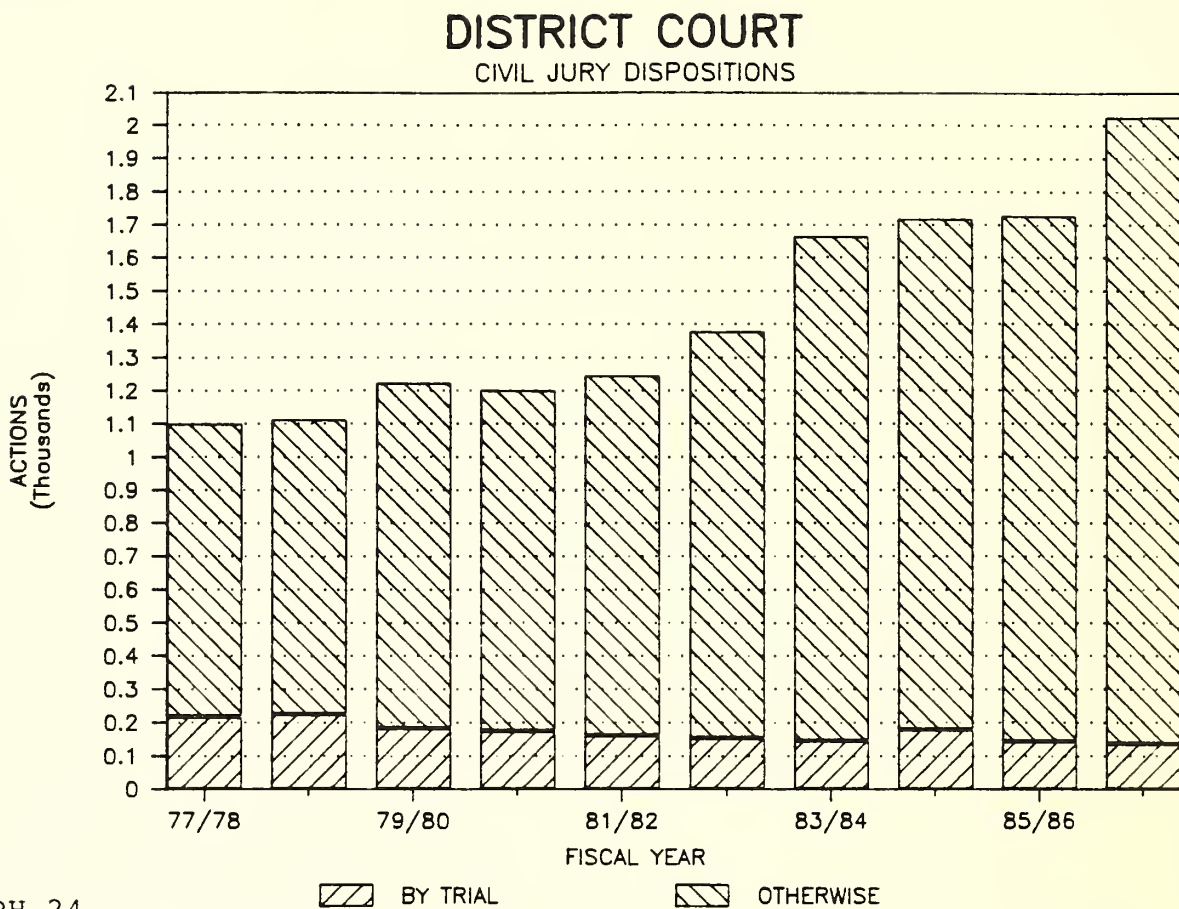
Between 1985/86 and 1986/87, the number of matters pending at year-end increased 20%. On March 31, 1986, there were 10,735 matters pending and on March 31, 1987 there were 12,985 matters pending. These represent case inventories of 2 and 3 months respectively. In spite of this, the number of CWA matters disposed aged 90 days or more increased only marginally from 2,152 to 2,200 and the number of family matters disposed aged 90 days or more increased slightly from 7,689 to 7,852. The most notable of the changes in the districts was in Peel, where the number of family matters disposed aged 90 or more days increased from 320 to 675. These represent 21% and 43% of the dispositions in their respective years.

PROVINCIAL COURT (CIVIL DIVISION)

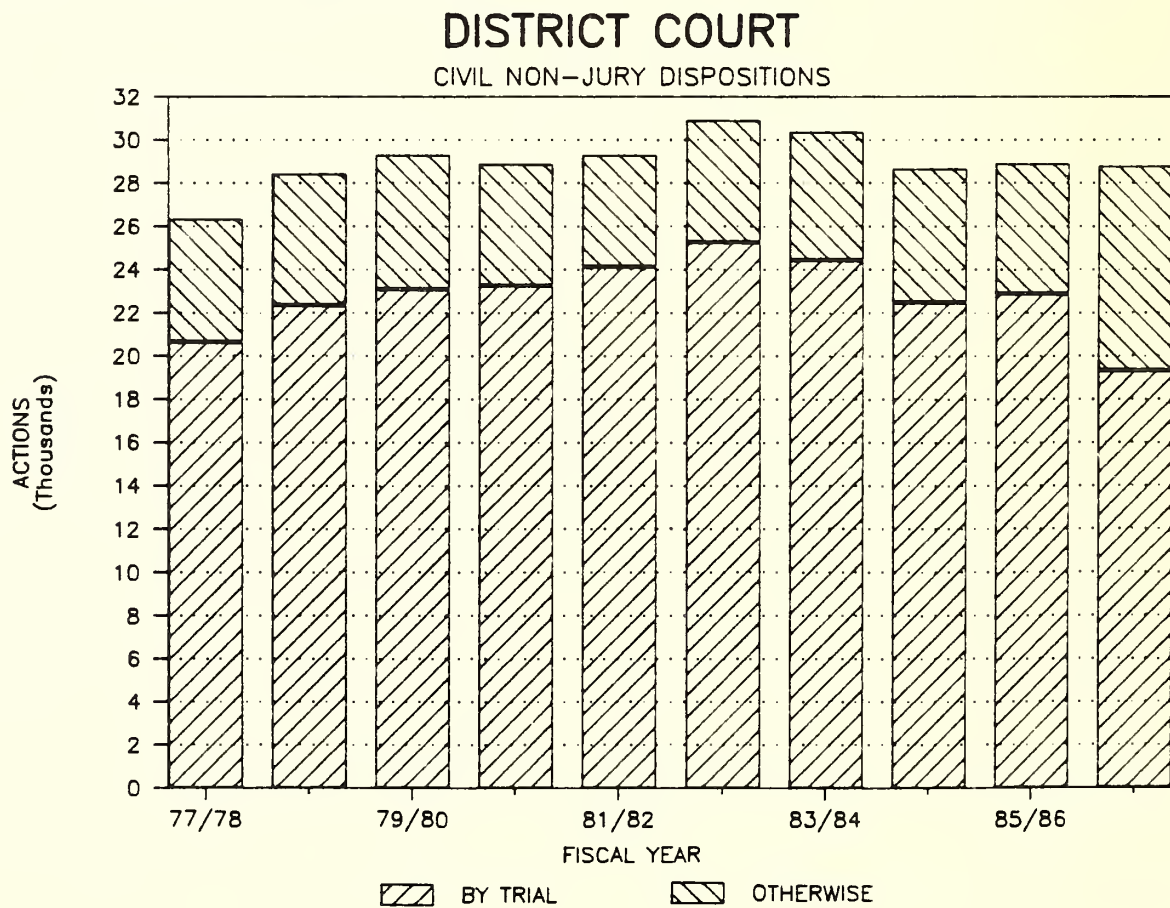
In Provincial Court (Civil Division), the number of claims filed increased in 1986 in comparison to 1985 but was still less than the 1982 and 1983 levels. The 1986 increase occurred both in Metropolitan Toronto and in the remainder of Ontario.

	Claims Filed				
	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Metropolitan Toronto					
\$1000 or less	29,212	26,375	23,729	20,663	20,692
\$1000 - \$3000	16,139	14,979	14,377	14,473	15,092
Remainder of Ontario					
\$1000 or less	115,403	96,303	89,125	83,551	86,613
TOTAL	160,754	124,177	127,231	118,687	122,397

GRAPH 23



GRAPH 24



DISTRICT COURT CIVIL MATTERS

Overview

In 1986/87, there was a decrease in the number of civil non-jury matters disposed and an increase in the number civil jury matters disposed. This was the sixth consecutive year for an increase in civil jury dispositions, and the increase was mainly for motor vehicle actions. For both jury and non-jury actions, the number disposed by trial decreased, and the number pending at year-end increased.

Civil Jury Matters

In 1986/87, there were 2,027 civil jury matters disposed, and this was an increase of 17% over the previous year. Of these, 75% were settled before trial and 7% or 138 were disposed by trial (Graph 23). In 1984/85, there were 181 matters disposed by trial, and that represented almost 11% of the total.

The largest category of matters disposed was motor vehicle actions for which last year there were 1,662. The number of these disposed by trial was 86. The number settled before trial was 1,281. There were 365 other matters disposed, of which 52 were disposed by trial.

There were 1,523 matters pending at year-end 1986/87, and this represented a case inventory of 9 months. Most of these were in the Judicial District of York, and occurred for motor vehicle accident cases.

Civil Non-Jury Matters

In 1986/87, there were 28,806 non-jury matters disposed, and this was a slight decrease from the previous year. Of the total, 67% or 19,345 were disposed by trial (Graph 24).

The largest category of matters disposed was divorce. In 1986/87, there were 21,739 divorce matters disposed, a slight decrease from the previous year. These were disposed before Local Judges of the High Court and most of these were disposed by trial. The number of matters pending at year-end represented only 7% of the total disposed during the year.

There were 6,669 other matters disposed, 1,734 of which were motor vehicle accident actions. Of these, there were 425 trials, and 987 were settled before trial. The number of motor vehicle accident actions pending at year-end was 852, approximately 50% of the number disposed.

Other Matters

The following summarizes the disposition of other matters before the District Court, between 1977/78 and 1986/87.

The number of Summary Conviction Appeals disposed decreased from 7,214 to 2,067. The pending rate increased from 39% in 1984/85 to 68% last year.

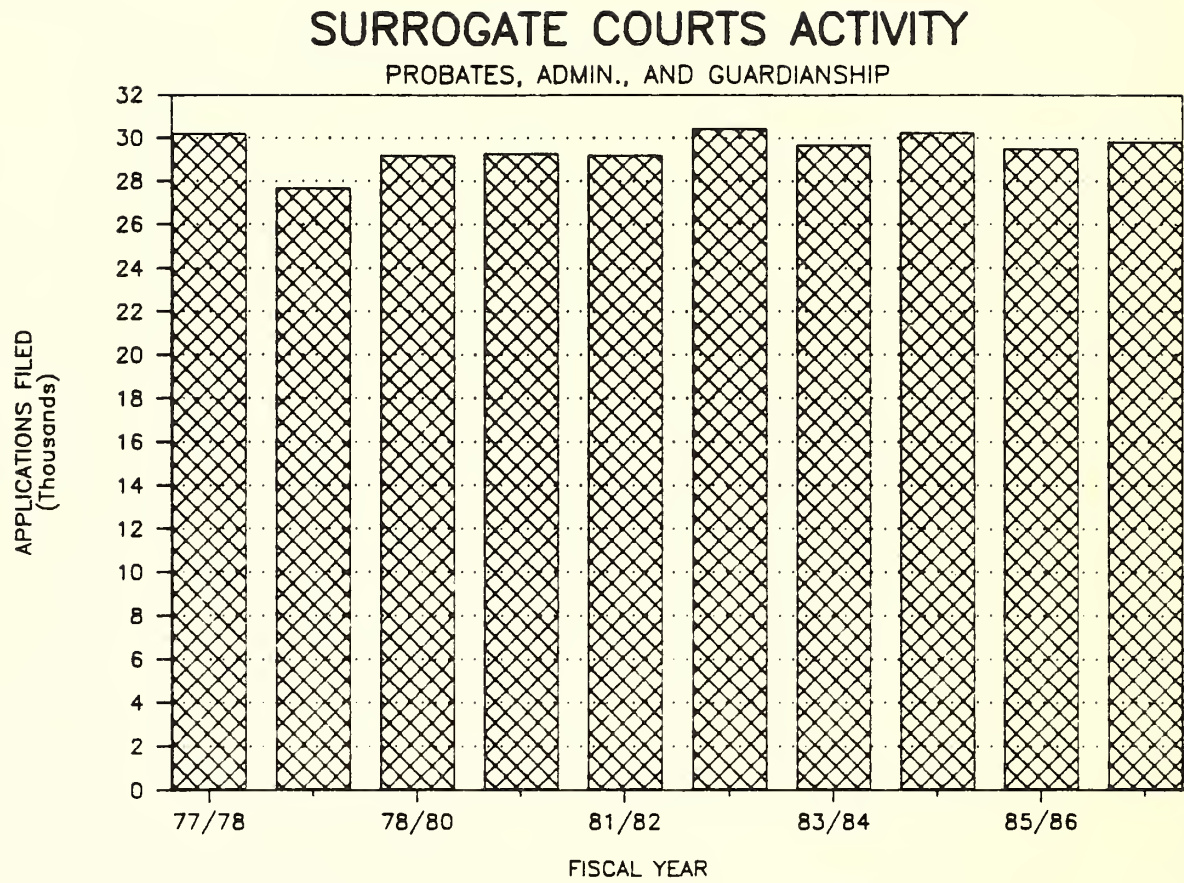
The number of judgements and orders issued decreased from 86,367 to 80,561.

The number of Examination for Discovery appointments held decreased from 18,408 to 8,855.

The number of Party + Party Taxations decreased from 6,064 to 3,362 in 1984/85 but increased to 4,764 last year.

The number of Landlord and Tenant Act Resolutions increased from 8,956 to 26,805.

GRAPH 25



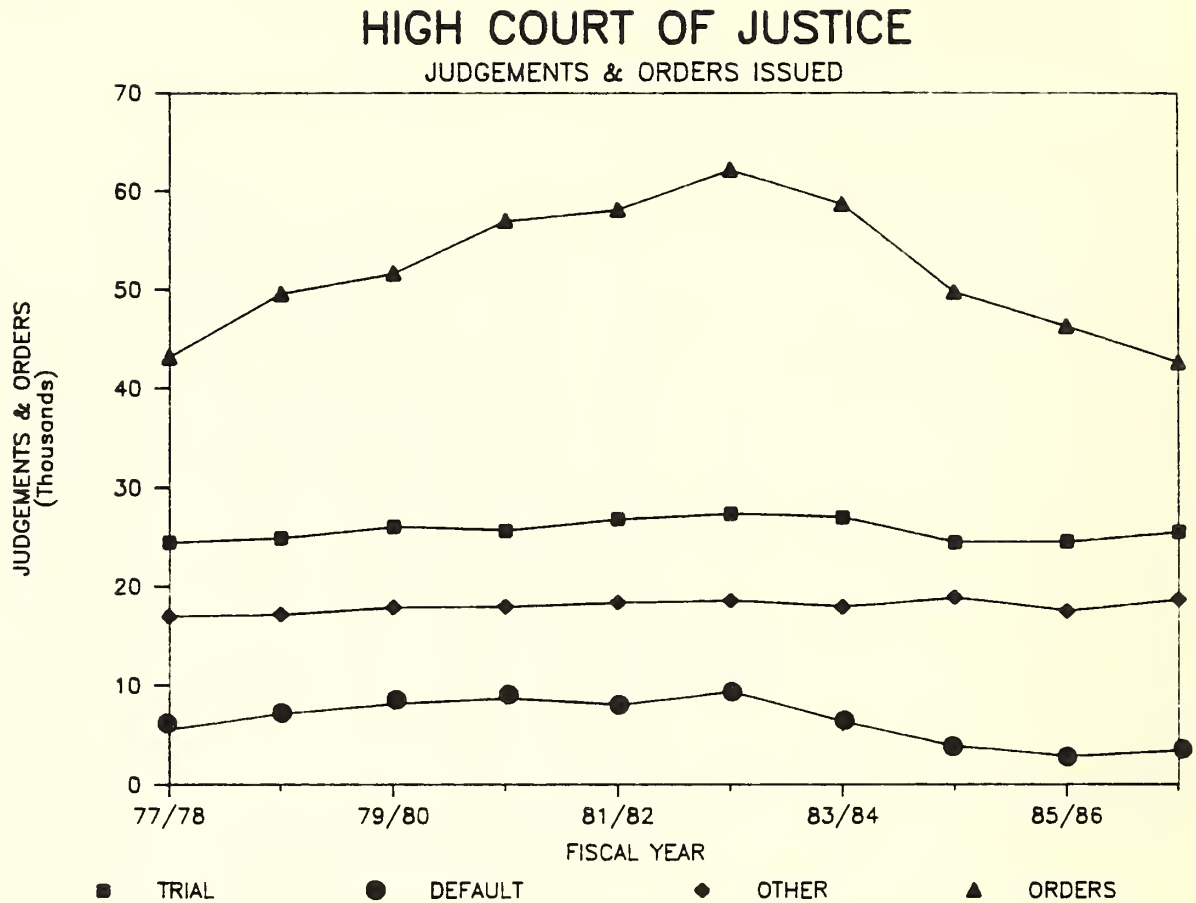
SURROGATE COURTS

Activity in the Surrogate courts has remained at the 30,000 level over the last decade. In 1977/78, there were 30,244 applications filed. The number in 1986/87 was 29,856. The number peaked in 1982/83 at 30,468 (Graph 25).

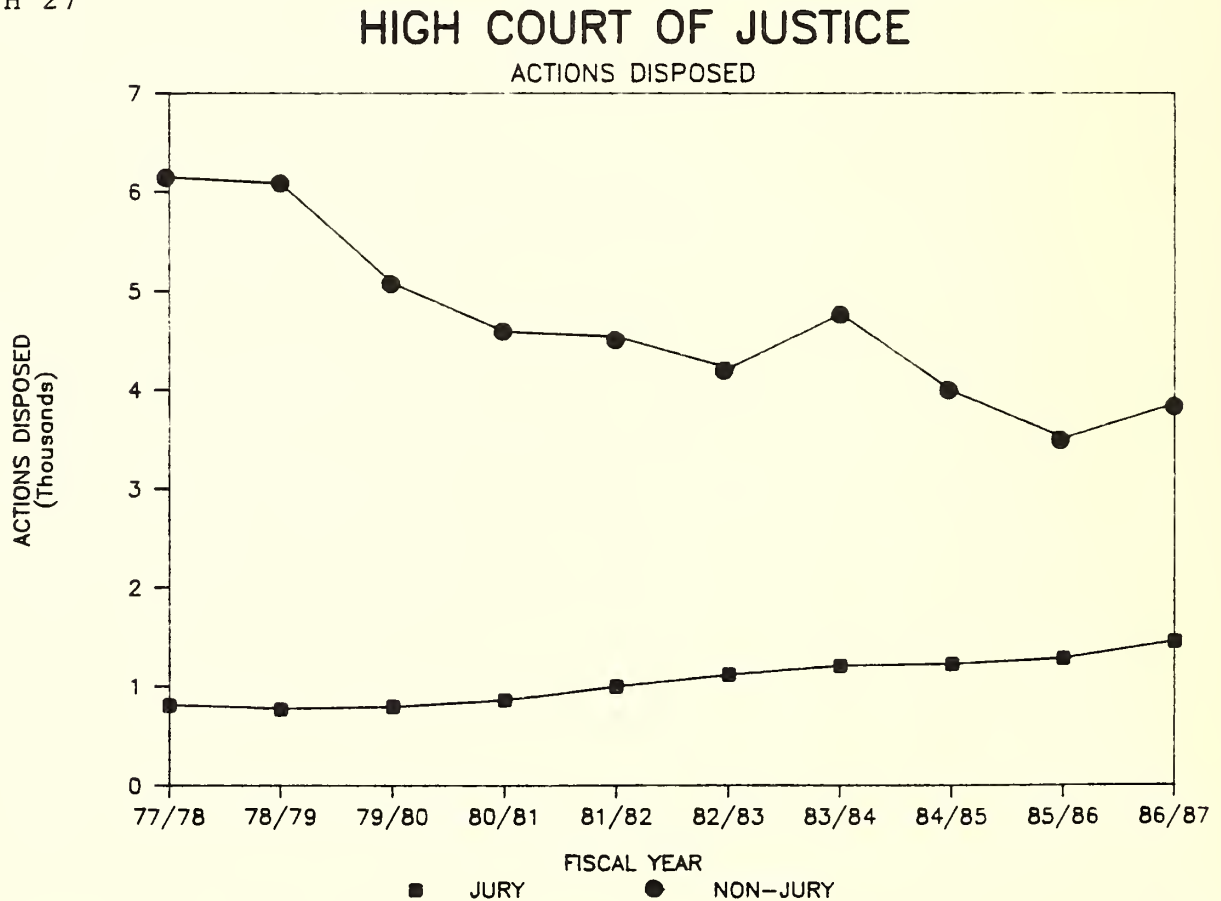
The following table displays Motions Heard and Passing of Accounts data. Both of these have decreased since 1983/84.

	83/84	84/85	85/86	86/87
Motions Heard	1,873	2,035	1,698	1,710
Passing of Accounts	1,040	1,198	1,138	809

GRAPH 26



GRAPH 27



SUPREME COURT OF ONTARIO - HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

Overview

In 1986/87, there was an increase in the number of judgements and orders issued and the number of civil jury and civil non-jury matters disposed. For jury matters, this was the eighth consecutive year for an increase. For non-jury matters, the number increased for the first time since 1983/84, but there has been a long term decrease. Judgements and Orders issued in the High Court of Justice, including those issued by a Local Judge of the High Court, increased for the first time since 1982/83.

Judgements and Orders Issued

Judgements and Orders issued in the High Court of Justice, including those issued by a Local Judge of the High Court, increased to 95,122 in 1986/87. This was the first year for an increase since 1982/83 when the number was 117,627. Over this period, the number of trial judgements was in the 25,000 range (Graph 26). The number of default judgements decreased from 9,456 to 3,468, and the number of other judgements ranged between 17,477 and 18,912. The number of orders issued decreased from 62,184 to 42,645.

Appointments held in the High Court of Justice were at approximately the same level in 1985/86 as at 1979/80. In 1985/86 the number was 3,343. Last year the number was 2,742. Examinations for Discovery decreased from 10,479 in 1983/84 to 5,790 last year.

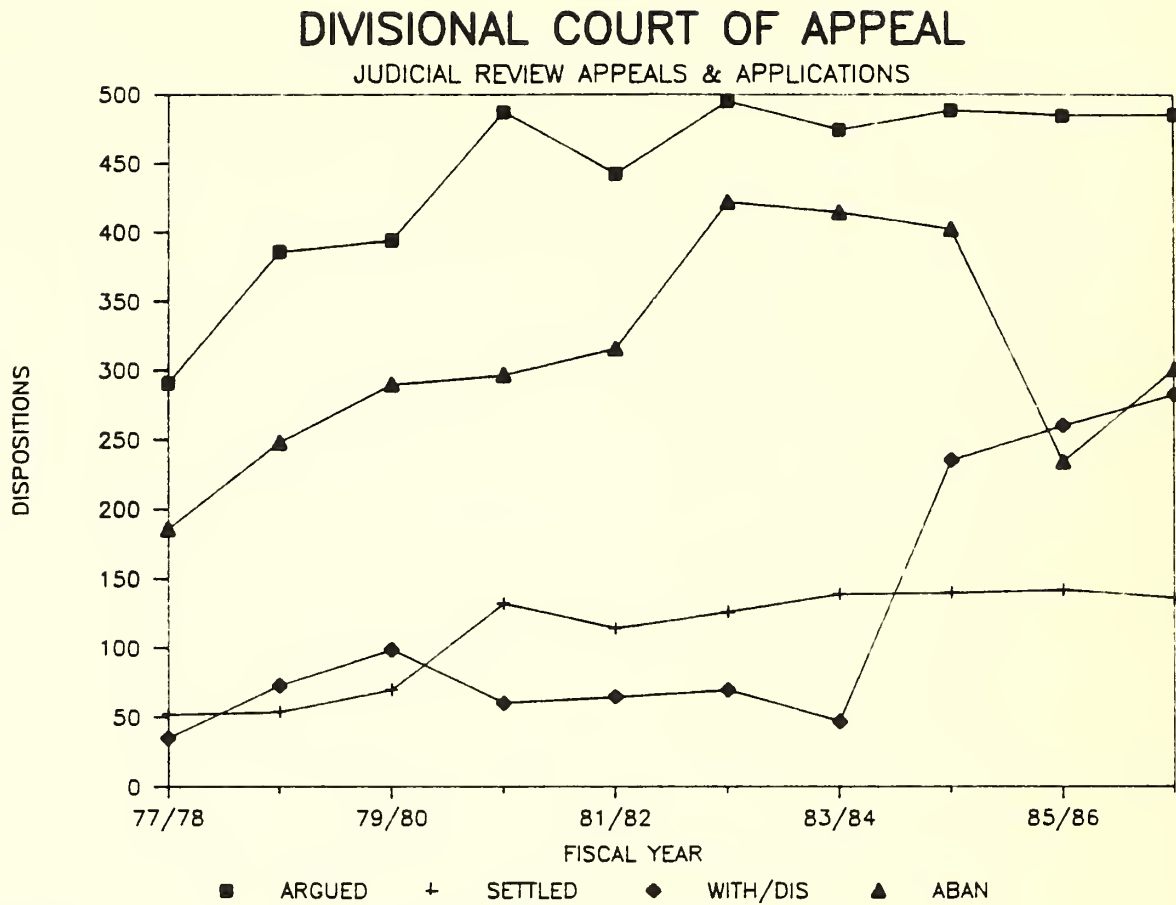
Civil Jury Actions

In 1986/87, the number of civil jury actions increased for the eighth consecutive year. The number reached 1,418 last year, and 1,130 of these were motor vehicle actions. The number of civil jury actions disposed by trial was 118. Most of the remaining actions were settled before trial. The number pending, at 1,418, was almost as high as the number disposed.

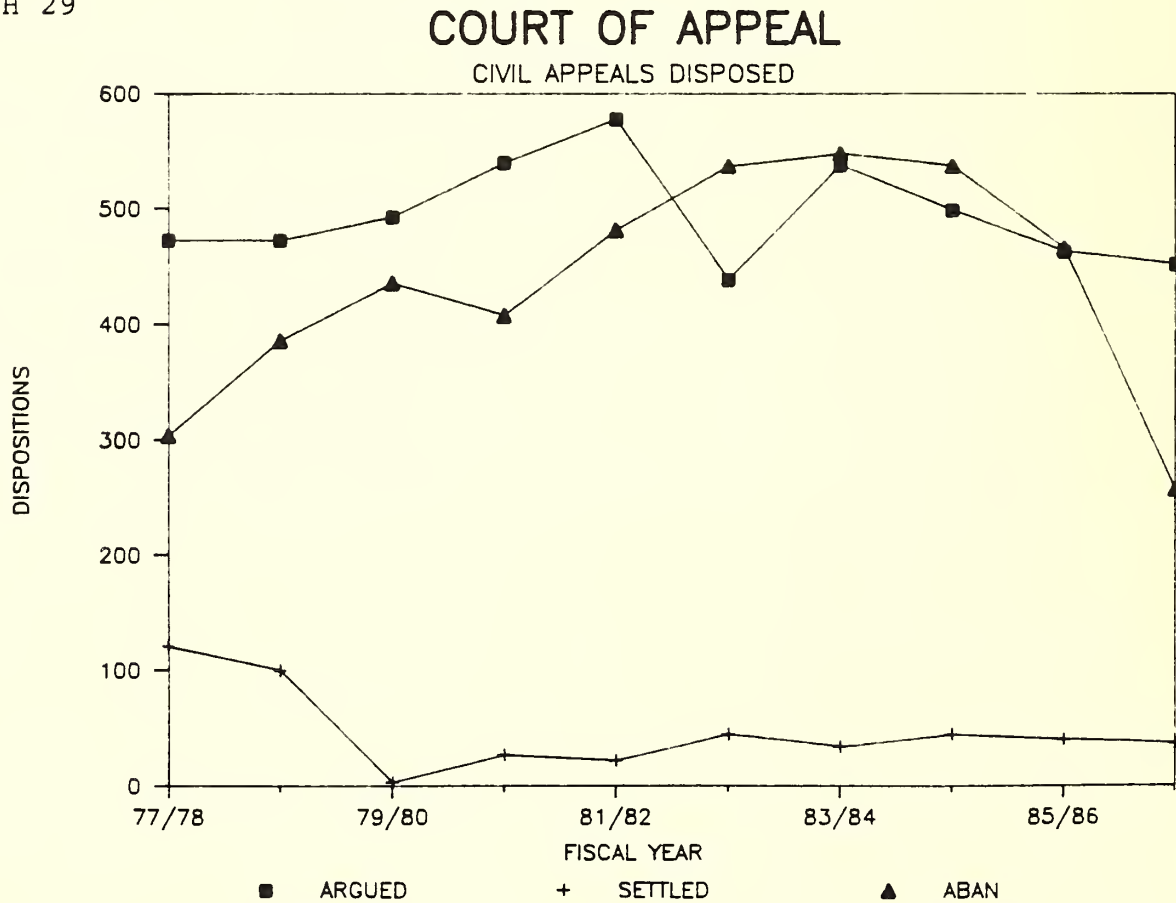
Civil Non-Jury Actions

In 1986/87, the number of civil non-jury actions disposed was 3,860. This was a modest increase over the previous year, but there has been a long term decrease (Graph 27). Of the total, 375 were divorce actions before High Court Judges, 846 were motor vehicle accident actions, and 2,639 were other actions. The number pending was 368, 722 and 2,474, respectively. The number of motor vehicle accident actions disposed increased 25% over the previous year.

GRAPH 28



GRAPH 29



SUPREME COURT OF ONTARIO - DIVISIONAL COURT

The number of appeals and applications for judicial review increased from 567 in 1977/78 to 1,205 in 1986/87. In 1975/76, cases argued accounted for over 50% of the dispositions (Graph 28). By 1986/87, the rate decreased to 40%. The percentage of cases settled increased marginally from 9% to 11% over the period, and the number of cases withdrawn/dismissed (with/dis) accounted for 6% of the dispositions in 1977/78, but decreased to 4% by 1983/84. The number and percentage have increased dramatically since then, so that in 1986/87, 23% were withdrawn/dismissed.

SUPREME COURT OF ONTARIO - COURT OF APPEAL CIVIL APPEALS

In 1986/87, the number of civil appeals disposed in the Court of Appeal decreased for the second consecutive year. Between 1977/78 and 1983/84 the number of civil appeals disposed increased from 951 in 1977/78 to 1,136 in 1983/84 (Graph 29). The number has since decreased to 987 in 1985/86 and to 780 last year. The dispositions classified as "argued" increased between 1977/78 and 1981/82, but have decreased since then. Similarly, the number classified as abandoned peaked in 1983/84. The number decreased dramatically since then to the 1977/78 level. The number "settled" ranged between 1% and 10% of the dispositions.

